Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-081
Monday
27 April 1992

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FBIS-SOV-92-081 *27 April 1992*

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Libyan Submarine Repaired in Russian Naval Base

Although Russia is supporting the UN Security Council resolution against Libya, Riga radio international has reported that a submarine sold to Libya and another one about to be sold are being repaired at a Russian naval base in Riga, Latvia. The Latvian Foreign Ministry announced unofficially that it is preparing a protest note "in connection with the presence of Libyan submarines in Riga." Based on this information experts believe that, "Riga is becoming a transshipment point through which the export of armaments from Russia is effected," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports. The military plant chief explained that the submarine arrived in the plant in 1988 under a contract signed by the former Soviet Union and Libya and that the contract "must be honored."

Ukraine Protests Shaposhnikov Statement

INTERFAX reports that the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Minister views the statement made by Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief, as "provocative." Shaposhnikov told to the Italian newspaper REPUBBLICA that "'Ukraine does not need a big fleet on the Black Sea and that it might put up with 20-25 per cent of the current Black Sea Fleet.'" The statement is seen as an "attempt to impose the CIS Command's views on the governmental delegations of Ukraine and Russia which are to meet in Odessa soon."

Military Developments in Central Asia

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, commenting on the fate of the Turkestan Military District said "agreement has been reached" with CIS Armed Forces chief Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov "on creating a separate 40th Army on Kazakh territory." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes this in a report on the meeting of the leaders of the Central Asian republics in Bishkek. On the same subject, Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov said "we want the Turkestan Military District disbanded" because of the expense of maintaining it. Niyazov added "the 52d Army will be created on Turkmenistan's territory" for which talks on "the upkeep" and "allocation of sufficient resources" for the army will be held with Russia.

First Russian Government Meeting Since Congress

The Russian Government met on 24 April for its first session since the Congress, according to Moscow Television. The meeting was chaired by First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar in the absence of President Boris Yeltsin. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reports Gaydar, commenting on the results of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies, claimed the cabinet had received "what is essentially a vote of confidence...and a mandate for further implementation of the reforms." INTERFAX reports the government's economic adviser, Aleksey Ulyukayev, explained Yeltsin's absence was due to the "strictly economic nature" of the meeting's agenda, so the president "entrusted its conduct to Yegor Gaydar." Ulyukayev also announced that "several new faces" will be introduced in the government, but "no personnel and structural changes are planned for the next 2-3 weeks," KURANTY reports.

Opposing Rallies Held in Dushanbe

POSTFACTUM reports that opposing rallies have gathered in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe. On 24 April, people "crowded in Ozodi Square in front of the parliament building" demanding "that Safarali Kenjayev be reinstated as president of Tajik parliament and that all the resolutions adopted at the latest session be abrogated." Meanwhile, "Kenjayev's adversaries began to gather in Shakhidon Square the same night. They demand his dismissal from the post of chairman of National Security Committee. " INTERFAX reports that the Kenjayev supporters also "insist that the leader of the Tajik Muslims, Khodzha Akbar Turadzhonzoda, be removed from his post and tried." It is believed that "confrontation in Tajikistan is threatening to evolve into a serious conflict" and "a clash may occur any moment." Chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan Shodmon Yusupov stated that Kenjayev's appointment as National Security Committee chairman following his dismissal, "destabilizes the situation and will not bring about any social or political improvement".

CIS Nuclear 'Vagueness' Concerns West

LD2404214792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] At today's briefing on current international political issues Yastrzhembskiy, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said that the West is worried about the vagueness with which certain CIS states view their nuclear status. The Russian diplomat said the following in this respect:

[Begin recording] The Western states have a natural interest in progress toward ratifying this treaty. The treaty is important both from the point of view of the limitations which it imposes and because these limitations provide the basis for further steps to reduce strategic offensive weapons. One gathers that the West is especially concerned about the vague stand taken by certain CIS states in which strategic nuclear weapons are stationed, the vagueness with which they view their nuclear status.

It was precisely this concern which prompted the NATO member states to issue a statement the other day. Among other things, the statement expresses hope that Ukraine, Byelarus, and Kazakhstan will accede to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, as nonnuclear states. Neither the presence of nuclear weapons in those countries, nor the fact that activities connected with the testing of nuclear weapons were carried out there in the past can serve as a basis for considering these states to be possessors of nuclear weapons in accordance with the articles of the treaty, the statement says. [end recording]

Admiral Defends Nuclear Sub Safety Record

LD2404202692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1420 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] In this morning's Mayak "Panorama" we were acquainted with a report in the U.S. weekly PARADE that U.S. admirals would like to sink nuclear warships belonging to the former Soviet navy in the interests of world security. They claim that the nuclear reactors aboard submarines are unsafe. We asked Rear-Admiral Valeriy Aleksin, chief navigator of our navy, to comment on this report. Here is what he said:

Throughout its history our nuclear submarine fleet has lost three atomic submarines, together with 98 crew. The U.S. Navy has lost two nuclear submarines at sea. Twice as many crewmen perished in these sinkings. When our submarines sank, the nuclear reactors were shut down immediately and the radiation situation did not change in subsequent years. But when the U.S. submarines Thresher and Scorpion sank, there was not enough time to do this. It should be pointed out that the accident rate of U.S. submarines has not come down over the last five years. But there has been a threefold reduction in the accident rate of the former Soviet Navy.

Rear-Admiral Aleksin said that at present the principal nuclear danger at sea is posed by collisions between submerged nuclear submarines. One need only recall the events of 11 February this year in the Barents Sea, when a U.S. nuclear submarine, the Baton Rouge, might have sunk together with its reactor and 12 nuclear weapons in less than a minute.

The best way of reducing the nuclear danger at sea would be to call a halt to the underwater cold war, which the U.S. Navy continues to wage. Over the last five years the former Soviet Navy has withdrawn all its submarines from U.S. waters. But the U.S. Navy maintains constant combat patrols at sea, as it has done for many years. At any one time it has up to 23 nuclear submarines at sea, with ballistic missiles trained on targets in the CIS. It keeps up to 12 multipurpose nuclear submarines in the direct vicinity of our shores. This is the principal nuclear danger at sea, and not reactors or missiles aboard our submarines, Rear-Admiral Aleksin, the navy's chief navigator, believes.

I remind you that this was his commentary on a report in the U.S. weekly PARADE that U.S. admirals would like to sink the nuclear warships of the former Soviet Navy in the interests of world security. Well, my commentary consists merely of a deep sigh.

Ecology Minister Recommends Reactor Shut Down

OW2304192192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The most dangerous for ecology sites at the Russian territory are the atomic reactors of Chernobyl type which must be shut down but not reconstructed, the Russian Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources said Thursday [23 April] at a news conference devoted to the visit of the member of the European Communities Commission for the Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection Carlo Ripa di Meana.

The minister noted that from the economic point of view shutting down of some atomic power stations will force other enterprises, namely metallurgical, to use energy saving technologies. One fourth of the energy resources can be saved by exploiting them.

Ecological Consequences of Nuclear Power Eyed

PM2304112692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Video report by announcer; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] [video shows nuclear power station] Greenpeace experts estimate that Russian nuclear power stations are 100 times more dangerous than their Western counterparts. At least five to seven years of intensive work and many billions [currency not specified] in capital investment would be required to guarantee a sufficient

level of reliability at Russian reactors. The Russian president's chief consultant on ecology, Academician Yablokov, believes that right now the republic is faced with the fact of an unprecedented threat from operational nuclear electric power stations. This danger, in his words, is intensified by the pathological secrecy surrounding work at nuclear power stations. Even after the Chernobyl accident, functionaries did everything possible to obstruct a study of objective information. And the same is happening today in the wake of the malfunction at the nuclear power station near St. Petersburg. Recently, Mordovia, which is located in the center of Russia, was added to the list of five oblasts contaminated by radionuclides after the Chernobyl accident, and a large area of contamination was discovered around the Byeloyarsk Nuclear Power Station in the north of the republic. Resolving all the problems linked with nuclear power stations would require tremendous resources. Part of this could be acquired as a result of the radical cuts in weapons production at military-industrial complex enterprises. After all, it is precisely these enterprises which swallow up to one-half of all metallurgical production, around 40 percent of electric power, and one-third of the GNP. [video shows scenes from one of aforementioned enterprises]

Khariton Said 'Main Creator' of Nuclear Arms

PM2404151792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Video report by A. Prokhorova, A. Tsirulnikov, and Yu. Pechinkin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Pioneer Soviet nuclear physicists declared at a conference at Arzamas-16 today that the main creator and developer of the Soviet mass annihilation weapons and the nuclear shield was Yuliy Khariton.

[Academician Yu.B. Khariton] Academician Ioffe, director of the Physical Engineering Institute, suggested that the very talented scientist Igor Vasilyevich Kurchatov be tasked with the scientific leadership of the entire project as a whole. The latter suggested to me that I should attend directly to the development of nuclear weapons because he knew that I had been involved to some extent with weapon development and that I was very interested in and excited by these questions.

[Prokhorova, over video of scientific facilities] Initially known as military installation N, then as Kremlev City, Arzamas-16 came into being in 1947 at the site of the ancient (?Sarovskiy) Monastery, and was for many decades one of the nuclear centers where the latest weapons were produced.

The brightest scientific talents were gathered here, and under constant supervision, cut off from the rest of the world, they worked miracles. For example, they built the first hydrogen bomb within just four years. The Americans took seven years to accomplish this.

[Tsirulnikov] If you had to start all over again, would you follow the same path?

[Khariton] Well, I believe, there could be no substantial differences. We could have been annihilated if we had not attended to this.

[Prokhorova, over video of people sitting around a table] Today the conference participants' attention is focused above all on the consequences of the Chernobyl tragedy and conversion problems. [video shows Khariton interview, scientific facilities, and conference participants]

Fighter Planes in Demand on Foreign Market

PM2304105492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 92

[Video report by S. Sokolova and D. Akinfeyev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sokolova] In the 1980's, the sale of arms and military hardware by the Soviet Union comprised 40 percent of world exports. Now it is far less.

[S. Slobodenyuk, scientific worker at the Supreme Soviet Management Institute] Right now in our country, there are modern weapons on the territory of the republics of Ukraine, Byelarus, the Baltic region, and others. But there is information that these weapons, or some of these weapons, could be sold.

[Sokolova] Greatest demand on the foreign market is focused on weapons like the Su-24 and the MiG-28 fighter aircraft, the T-72 tank, and even gas masks. It is likely that in the very near future we will begin to sell the MiG-31, which was such a sensation at the Le Bourget show. The MiG-31 is designed to intercept targets at low altitude. The powerful onboard radar system and phased-array antennae renders the MiG-31 capable of tracking up to 10 targets and simultaneously destroying four. The cost of such a fighter aircraft is around $100 million. However, our equipment is among the cheapest in the world. It is in great demand in conflict zones. But is it ethical to sell arms to warring countries?

[Slobodenyuk] If we don't do it, then other firms and countries will supply these weapons instead of us.

Nations Welcome CIS Admission to IMF, IBRD

LD2704100192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0728 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, April 27 TASS—The group of 24 developing countries "welcomes the forthcoming membership of the former Soviet Union in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). This will strengthen to a large extent the truly global nature of these two organisations," says the group's communique released here on Sunday [26 April] on the results of its meeting on international monetary policy. The meeting was attended by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and World Bank President Luis T. Preston.

The finance ministers of these developing countries have highly praised the "efforts and persistence of the IMF and IBRD leaders, who "helped the former Soviet republics and countries of Eastern and Central Europe join the world financial community". They hailed the "comprehensive structural reforms in the regulation sphere that are now being effected in countries of Eastern and Central Europe, and in CIS nations in order to regear their economies to market lines". They urged the international community, especially the world's leading industrial countries, "to grant the necessary financial aid in order to make this process successful".

The 24-nation group welcomed the broad agreement, achieved by G7 nations to grant of a 24 billion U.S. dollars package of aid to the Russian Federation. Supporting financial aid to Eastern and Central Europe and the former USSR, the ministers stressed at the same time that the provision of resources and aid to those nations should be of an "additional nature", and should not harm the financial and other forms of aid to other developing states.

Several Republics Granted ESCAP Membership

LD2304225192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1211 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Oreshin]

[Text] Beijing, April 23 TASS—The 48th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which ended here today, was devoted to commercial and economic cooperation among nations of the Asian-Pacific region.

It was the first regional forum of such a high status attended by Russia as an independent and sovereign state.

Aleksandr Belchuk, deputy permanent representative of Russia to ESCAP, told ITAR-TASS that the main result of the forum was its manifest desire to resolve problems of regional cooperation in a new de-ideologized spirit of mutual understanding and compromises.

"Taking into account the interests of these states," Belchuk said, "ESCAP has amended its plans and long-term programmes in order to render them assistance during the transitional period."

The session's resolution notes the need to promote regional economic cooperation.

The current session has granted ESCAP membership to seven new states, including Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Transportation Meeting Opens in Kazakhstan

LD2404130792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The session of the road ministers of the Silk Road countries began its work this morning in Alma-Ata, the capital city of Kazakhstan. During the ceremonies, in which the road and transportation ministers of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, as well as Russia's deputy road and transportation minister and envoys from the German, Japanese, and Austrian railways are present, our country's roads and transportation minister elaborated on the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran connecting east to the west and stressed the need for the countries of the region to have access to free waters.

He made a number of proposals for regional countries' cooperation in the field of transportation and stressed the need to hold the session of the member countries' transportation ministers on a rotational and annual basis. He further announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to host the next session, which was welcomed by the head of the session and the rest of the members.

Turkey and Turkmenistan are not present in the session, which is to continue for another three days, and they have not announced any reasons for not attending the session. The Russian delegation is participating as an observer at the session.

'Euro-Asian' Railway Discussed

LD2504215692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The leaders of the Commonwealth are discussing cooperation plans. In particular, the meeting of heads of transport organizations of a number of countries has begun in Alma-Ata.

[Correspondent D. Baimbetov] The build-up of technical potential and the throughput capacity of the

national railways and the creation in the near future of a Trans-Asian, and subsequently, Euro-Asian main line—these are the main subjects being discussed at this meeting.

Its participants—representatives of Iran, China, Asia, Germany, Japan, Russia, and the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan—believe that it is necessary to set up an international association that would coordinate questions of development and effective use of this huge line. Laid out along the route of the Great Silk Road, it today already stretches for 10,200 kilometers from Beijing to Istanbul, through Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Iran, and Turkey.

On the territory of Kazakhstan, the line will take branches leading to Siberia, the Urals, and Transcaucasia, and its western part will have outlets to the countries of the Near East and the Persian Gulf region.

The interest is obvious; after all, the route will become a sort of bridge between East and West and link the republics of the CIS with the states of Europe and Asia by the shortest route.

Memorandum on Cooperation Signed

LD2504220392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] There was a conference in Alma-Ata today of leaders of railway transport of Kazakhstan, the republics of Central Asia, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and the Islamic Republic of Iran on questions of creating in the near future a Trans-Asian and Eurasian railroads. It was noted that the attention and interest of many foreign entrepreneurs was already fixed on these transport arteries and their construction.

In particular, representatives of five firms from Japan, Germany, and Austria made proposals at the conference concerning questions of transferring their experience in organizing transportation, developing the material and technical basis of the trunkline, repairing and manufacturing rail cars, and equipping them with up-to-date telecommunications systems.

The participants in the conference signed a memorandum on cooperation in the development and effective use of the Trans-Asian and Eurasian mainline railroads.

More Customs Posts To Open on Polish Border

PM2704091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Customs in Russia, Byelarus, and Poland To Ease Border Congestion"]

[Text] Seven new checkpoints on the Russian-Polish border will be opened in Kaliningrad Oblast under agreements reached in Warsaw during talks between the leaders of the Russian, Byelarusian, and Polish customs departments.

Over the past five years the flow of people in both directions has more than tripled, while the number of crossing points has remained the same. At the Warsaw working meeting documents were signed on cooperation between customs organs in the law enforcement sphere, and on the seizure and return of illegally exported or imported cultural assets. The first concrete step has also been taken—the Polish side has announced its readiness to return to Russia and Byelarus 40 icons confiscated by customs workers during an attempt to smuggle them into Poland.

Black Sea Nations Sign Convention on Pollution

OW2204172492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Bulgarian, Greek, Turkish, and Romanian governments signed an international convention in Bucharest protecting the Black Sea from pollution.

The document which was prepared over the course of ten years outlines the legal basis of cooperation of the coastal states to protect the Black Sea.

Commonwealth

Internal Affairs Ministries Discuss Crime

Cooperation Agreement Signed

OW2404212892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Alma-Ata was the site of a meeting on Thursday [23 April] and Friday between leading figures from the Ministries of Internal Affairs of ten of the independent republics of the former Soviet Union—Azerbaijan, Armenia, Byelarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. Moldova and Turkmenistan alone out all of the countries of the Commonwealth did not take part in the meeting.

At the conference it was remarked that criminality does not respect national borders, all the more so when those borders, as in many cases in the Commonwealth, are not strongly patrolled. Crime in the countries participating in the conference continues to worsen and is becoming a socially, politically, and economically destabilizing influence. Participants declared that, under such circumstances, it was important to preserve ties which had been established earlier among various Internal Affairs Ministries and to work out new legal mechanisms for cooperation.

Guided by the necessity of defending the rights and freedoms of citizens, the conference participants signed an agreement to establish cooperation between the various governments' Ministries of Internal Affairs in order to fight criminality. This agreement specifies that the Ministries will work together in the following basic areas: crimes against individuals; organized crime; illegal trade in narcotics; counterfeit of documents, money, and securities; illegal use of firearms; and economic crimes. The ministries also pledged to work together in apprehending fugitives.

Specific forms of cooperation which do not infringe upon civil rights of citizens or the sovereignty of governments were set forth in the agreement. This cooperation will primarily involve the exchange of information, advice, special equipment and communications means, as well as joint work in the training of personnel. The agreement also provided for employees to transfer from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of one state to another without loss of titles, seniority, pensions, and other benefits which are prescribed for employees in the service of Ministries of Internal Affairs in the governments who are parties to the agreement. The agreement is not closed to other governments who may wish to sign, does not affect prior agreements with other countries, and does not prevent the development of bilateral ties between the Ministries of the Independent States.

During their stay in Alma-Ata, the Ministers of Internal Affairs for the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, V. Yerin and V. Shumov, signed a bilateral agreement on material and technical cooperation.

After the conclusion of the conference, the Russian delegation flew to Bishkek to hold talks with their Kyrgyz colleagues.

Turkmenistan To Sign Later

LD2404195192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The leaders of the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the former Union republics are meeting in Alma-Ata today.

[Correspondent D. Baimbetov] Apart from Moldova, the upper administrative echelons of all the CIS countries are represented along with Latvia, Estonia, and Georgia. The main aim of the meeting in Alma-Ata is for all the states to unite their efforts and to cooperate and coordinate their fight against crime. The areas, forms, and mechanisms of cooperation have been determined.

An agreement on cooperation between the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the independent states was signed by all, except the representative from Turkmenistan. This republic intends to sign the document a little later once the Government of Turkmenistan has been acquainted with its contents. The Ukrainian delegation proposed terming the gathering a working meeting and has its own views on the contents of the data bank of the former USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A bilateral agreement on cooperation was also signed between Latvia and Estonia on the one hand and the CIS states on the other. [passage omitted]

'Conference' Established

LD2404195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1606 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata April 24 TASS—Heads of interior bodies from 13 independent states, members of the former Soviet Union, today signed an agreement on interaction in anti-crime activities.

Representatives of Lithuania and Moldova failed to attend the event due to objective reasons. However, interior ministers from these republics sent cables approving the agreement and expressing the readiness to join it later.

The document envisages specific measures to enable the enhanced anti-crime activities in sovereign states. Interior bodies will keep permanent contacts, coordinate their work and closely cooperate in common operations.

In future interior bodies' representatives are expected to be accredited at embassies in each of the republics, which has signed the agreement. The cooperation will be based on principles similar to those of Interpol.

The Alma-Ata meeting established a conference of interior bodies' heads to hold its first meeting in Kyrgyzstan.

Further on Central Asian Meeting in Bishkek

Presidents Cited on Military Issues

PM2404194792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Report featuring replies by President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Karimov of Uzbekistan, and President Niyazov of Turkmenistan to question from correspondent Colonel A. Ladin at news conference at conclusion of Bishkek conference on 23 April, followed by unsigned comment: "Leaders of Central Asian States and Kazakhstan Favor Mutual Security Treaty]

[Text] As previously reported, a conference of the heads of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan has been held in Bishkek. At its conclusion on 23 April, a news conference was held at which our correspondent, Colonel A. Ladin, asked the presidents to comment on a number of military, political, and defense problems, in particular on the fate of the Turkestan Military District. Here are the Kazakh, Uzbek, and Turkmen presidents' replies.

Nursultan Nazarbayev:

We do not renounce the documents signed on the creation of the Joint Armed Forces with a unified command. We currently remain loyal to that principle. But Russia, which always has said that it will be one of the last to create an army, has begun to elaborate a military doctrine and is setting about creating an army. It is developing a military policy at the same time. Thus, it will be necessary to resolve the question of the creation of armies in other states and then the conclusion of a single defense alliance by means of civilized negotiations.

As for the fate of the Turkestan Military District, I can say that, under the accord with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief, and the leadership of the Armed Forces branches, agreement has been reached on creating a separate 40th Army on Kazakh territory. Its commander will be appointed by a decree of the the Kazakh president and will be confirmed by order of the CIS Joint Armed Forces commander in chief. That now has been done.

A special structure within the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff has been created to coordinate the actions of the troops of the former Turkestan Military District on the territory of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

This will continue until we come to the conclusion that a treaty is needed between the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. Then we shall enter into a standard union [odnotipnyy soyuz] with Russia. Thus, we are combining common interests. This approach may be considered civilized and correct.

Islam Karimov:

In Uzbekistan some steps already have been taken toward resolving the questions that we are now talking about. I would like to mention what we have done and what we are thinking of doing next.

I fully agree with the prospects in defense building that Nursultan Abishevich talked about. Every independent sovereign state should have its own army. But, when we say "army," everyone becomes frightened. Everyone imagines something really big, very unwieldy, and costly.

Furthermore, each state must have an army at a level that it can maintain from its own budget potential. The Armed Forces which are on Uzbekistan's territory are comparatively small. They number around 30,000 officers and men today. All forces have been taken under Uzbekistan's jurisdiction. At the same time, these Armed Forces belong to the CIS Joint Armed Forces under a joint command headed by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. The joint command coordinates their actions. That is why our ideology is unambiguous. We do not intend to create an isolated army which would be in opposition to or stand outside the framework of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Our plan is modeled on NATO. Each state has its own army and at the same time participates in the pooling of efforts and the creation of a unified operational and strategic leadership within a unified command.

I agree with Nursultan Abishevich that a treaty on mutual security, as it is called, is indispensable. We would like those states that today belong to the CIS, primarily Russia, to sign a treaty that envisages the observance of all the principles connected with mutual security and the protection of all our states against military threats and other situations when we must present a united front.

Saparmurad Niyazov:

The Turkestan Military District grouping of forces stationed in Turkmenistan numbers 108,000 officers and men and its upkeep costs the republic 7.5 billion rubles today. It must be realized that we ensure the protection not only of our own republic's borders, but of those of all the states in Central Asia. The cost that I quoted is very hard for Turkmenistan to bear alone today. We want the Turkestan Military District to be disbanded and this initiative to be supported. In two days the 52d Army will be created on Turkmenistan's territory by a decree that I shall sign. We will be holding talks with Russia on the upkeep of this army and the allocation of sufficient resources for it.

In the future the question of backup for those forces may arise—if the cost is again placed solely on the republic's shoulders and is not borne by others from the CIS budget.

We support the creation in the future of national armies in other CIS states and believe that the strategic forces must be subordinate to the CIS Joint Command.

But today, in our view, it is necessary to take a realistic view of the fact that the CIS hardly exists and, therefore, I do not see to whom the Joint Armed Forces are subordinated and who leads the command of the CIS troops.

There will be talks with Russia. We, the heads of state, must examine these unresolved questions.

In Place of a Commentary

As is well known, the Bishkek meeting discussed not only military questions. It was an attempt to establish new relations among the region's countries and establish close political and economic cooperation.

We believe that this is quite a major step for Kazakhstan and the Central Asian republics, which clearly are not satisfied with the way matters are developing in the CIS at present. This may be interpreted as a signal that the development of relations in the CIS is passing the critical point. In the next few months it will be largely determined how the process is going to develop: either along the path of further disintegration or else the long-awaited, painstaking, creative work of integration will finally begin.

The participants in the Bishkek meeting tried to coordinate their interests at the regional level. It is quite reasonable to ask: On whose behalf was this attempt made? Does this help or hinder the CIS? I believe that at the moment, despite some skeptical comments expressed in Bishkek about the CIS, it helps the Commonwealth. What happens next is a different matter. If there is a division into regions or "groups," the CIS will not survive. Perhaps several new commonwealths will appear and possibly someone will try to go it alone... But, if the Bishkek meeting prompts the heads of the Slav states to remember what they originally declared in the Belovezhskaya Forest and if new meetings and initiatives within the framework of the whole CIS follow, there will be hope that the process of "scattering in all directions," which is destructive and ruinous for all, will finally be ended.

These are anxious, very anxious times for the Commonwealth. Once again, as already has happened numerous times in history, much in this one-sixth of the planet will depend on Russia. The easiest thing of all would be for its leadership to pursue an egoistical policy without regard for others. But, is that the strategic interest of a great country?

'Turkic-Asian Community' Viewed

PM2404144592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 1

[K. Bayalinov report: "Two Saints Out of Five Are Enough?"]

[Text] Bishkek—A working conference of the presidents of the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan has been held in Bishkek. Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev did not attend the meeting because of the political crisis in the republic (officially "for health reasons") but he sent his agent—the first vice-premier—who, according to Askar Akayev's statement, was empowered to sign the final documents.

Four politicians, different in character and philosophy, met, despite a whole series of major differences of opinion, to discuss the possibility of creating a single Turkic-Asiatic economic and political space.

The expected "miracle" did not happen—the sides did not agree, unfortunately, on the creation of a single investment bank and single price policy. The pragmatism of Turkmenistan (which could smell petrodollars) prevailed here.

The sides' position clearly showed that each of the former Soviet republics is heading toward the market by a different route: Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan together with Russia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan by their own route.

There were some sensations, too. President Niyazov stated that "in practice the CIS no longer exists" (Karimov disagreed with him) and proposed that the same group meet again in Ashkhabad in May together with the leaders of Turkey and Iran. But he warned straightaway that cooperation must develop without detriment to one another.

Karimov, however, said that national wealth should be used first and foremost in the interests of the peoples of the region and only then in the interests of neighbors, by which he meant Russia. Akayev replied to this, not very confidently, that Russia is and remains a reliable partner for Kyrgyzstan. Nazarbayev maintained a diplomatic silence and responded wittily to the question "Why are you, Akayev, and Nabiyev remaining behind, why have you not followed the example of Niyazov and Karimov and gone on a hajj yet?" by parrying that he respects Saparmurad Atayevich and Islam Karimov very much and is proud of their deed but thinks nevertheless that "two 'saints' out of the five of us is enough."

So the meeting has ended. Despite modest results, it showed clearly the desire of post-Soviet Asia for consolidation on the basis of the Turkic-Asian community. The meeting confirmed the thesis that Russian diplomacy "could lose" Central Asia and the latter itself will manage without Russia by changing its customary orientation.

News Conference Cited

MK2504140792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Igor Rotar report under "Meetings" rubric: "Bishkek Accords Do Not Contravene CIS Principles. But Turkestan Must Join In"]

[Text] The meeting of the heads of the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, with the exception of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev, ended in Bishkek 23 April (NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA No. 81).

The attempt to create a single Central Asia-Kazakhstan politicoeconomic area was unsuccessful. President Saparmurad Niyazov refused to sign protocols on a single investment fund and Investment Bank for the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and on the coordination of policy in the sphere of price formation and the structural reorganization of the economy. The Turkmen leader is probably hoping that petrodollars will enable the new independent state to survive without the assistance of its neighbors. It is possible that this same circumstance explains Niyazov's clearly expressed skepticism toward the CIS—in Bishkek he stated that the Commonwealth has practically ceased to exist.

There were also certain changes in the "geopolitical" program of the meeting participants. Against expectations a separate protocol on the inviolability of borders and territorial integrity was rejected. In a joint statement issued by the presidents the territorial integrity clause was not made into a separate point but was included only in the preamble to the document.

As before there is no firm confidence in the final defeat "of the new philosophy of the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan" (Askar Akayev's expression). The fragments cited of a news conference which took place immediately following the meeting enable certain forecasts to be made concerning the future of the mysterious East in a collapsed empire.

[Question] Why did Turkmenistan fail to sign a number of agreements? Was the situation in Afghanistan discussed?

[Niyazov] A number of drafts were formulated quite well on the whole, but maybe it was necessary to give fuller consideration to the specific nature of each of our states. Everything must be scrupulously accounted for so that no one ends up losing out. I believe that a working group will reexamine certain documents in order to facilitate our arriving at a general agreement.

[Question] Can this meeting be assessed as an attempt to establish a CIS in Central Asia and Kazakhstan?

[Nazarbayev] Back in Ashkhabad we rejected a purely national approach to the creation of such structures and we stand by that position, but life changes, however. It is possible that new approaches to the solution of new problems will emerge.

[Karimov] The accords reached in Bishkek do not contravene the principles of the CIS. But the following must be borne in mind: Both in tsarist times and during the years of Soviet power our region was perceived as a raw material appendage of the metropolis. Therefore, for all the vast resources of the Central Asian economy, it has not developed normally. We are convinced that the time has come to pool our efforts so as to create a modern industry here, so as to process raw materials on the spot with the aid of modern technologies. We have all the capabilities for this, and the determination to act together for the sake of our great goal.

[Question] Is it possible to speak of a common ideology for Central Asia and Kazakhstan?

[Karimov] I am altogether opposed to ideologization in the economy because it leads to a dead-end. If we talk about ideology in the figurative sense, then it does exist, and it has been mentioned here. It is essential to utilize the wealth which our region possesses, and primarily for the benefit of the population resident on this territory. Irrespective of nationality, of course.

[Question] Esteemed representative of the Republic of Tajikistan! Does the act of signing the joint statement signify that the territorial disputes between your republic and Kyrgyzstan have disappeared and that the Tajik leadership is abandoning its territorial claims on neighboring states?

(Noise in the auditorium, shouts from the seats occupied by the respresentatives of the Tajik delegation.)

President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev took the floor: "There have been no claims. Every home has its family quarrels, and in preparing a draft treaty on friendship and cooperation among our countries we have arrived at mutual understanding and nurture the hope that we will shortly be signing such a treaty."

Union of Communists Holds First Congress

LD2504155492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Apr—The first congress of the Union of Communists—a political party that considers itself to be one of the CPSU's legal successors—opened in Moscow today.

ITAR-TASS was informed by Aleksey Prigarin, member of the organizing committee of the Union of Communists and member of the former CPSU Central Committee, that one of the congress tasks is the formation of an International Union of Communists as a voluntary association of independent communist parties. According to him the work of the congress begins as the constituent congress of the International Union of Communists and will continue at a joint session of that

congress and the first congress of the Union of Communists. The International is oriented first and foremost at the CIS states, and Aleksey Prigarin named delegations of the representatives of the communist organizations of Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, and the Dniester region as "plenipotentiary founders" of the International Union of Communists.

A draft political resolution of the congress says that the "country is moving from crisis to a nationwide catastrophe". In the view of those drawing up the document, the continuation of government policy, "even in the way that it has been adjusted by the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies", will inevitably cause a further slump in production and mass unemployment, will lead to a fresh upsurge in prices, and "will make the people's life unbearable". The Union of Communists considers that such developments can only be averted by "a powerful rebuff by the working people for any government pursuing the policies of the IMF and of the world and domestic bourgeoisie".

The draft resolution points out that the working people will be able "to defend their economic and social rights only by removing from power those who are attempting to build capitalism in our country." In order to "prevent the escalation of the working people's resistance into blind rebellion" it must be given an "intelligent and purposeful character." In the Union's view, success in this can be ensured "only by a revived communist movement."

The congress, according to its organizers, is a step toward achieving the Union of Communists' goal of "unifying all communists in a single party." The draft resolution emphasizes that the "congress considers the best form for such a unification is a restoration of the rights of the CPSU and it unconditionally supports the process of its revival and renewal on the basis of scientific communism." As for the events of last year and particularly August 1991 they have in the view of those supporting a revival of the Communist Party only "led to purging the CPSU of the direct accomplices of counterrevolution", "those belonging to the CPSU not through conviction but for career purposes", and "liabilities".

Regulations, Documents Adopted

LD2604195892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 26 ITAR-TASS—A joint meeting of the constituent congress of the International Union of Communists and the first congress of the Russian Union of Communists ended in Moscow on Sunday [26 April].

Some 200 people who gathered for the joint meeting founded the International Union of Communists (IUC) consisting of the Union of Communists of Russia, the Union of Communists of Ukraine, the Union of Communists of Latvia and the Communist Party of the working people of the Dniester area. The regulations and programme documents of the Union of Communists of Russia were then adopted.

The main purpose of the IUC, Vladimir Markov, member of the organising committee, told ITAR-TASS, is "to revive the Soviet Union in the original, Leninist sense as a voluntary union of independent republics". He regards the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as a "certain step towards the implementation of Lenin's idea". At the same time he said that the CIS in its present form is an unviable structure, and that the economic necessity will compell the states that appeared in place of the former USSR to form a union devised by Lenin.

As to the Union of Communists of Russia (UCR), it is one of some ten parties, "heirs to the CPSU". In the economic programme adopted here, UCR condemns "the artificially-created crisis" and expresses support for "a flexible combination of state regulation and market self-regulation" and proposes immediately to freeze prices and carry out a monetary reform.

Aleksey Prigarin, one of the leaders of the UCR, former member of the CPSU Central Committee, told ITAR-TASS that UCR regards "the revived CPSU in a renewed form" as the best foundation for unifying the recently formed parties of communists orientation. Members of the union believe that a plenum of the CPSU Central Committee should first be convened. It should announce the convocation of the 29th CPSU congress. However, Prigarin believes this should take place after May 26, when the Contitutional Court of the Russian Federation discusses the request to abrogate Boris Yeltsin's decrees that terminated the activity of the CPSU in the Russian territory. He said members of the UCR believe these presidential decrees will be found unconstitutional.

Ecological Conference With CIS Ends Session

LD2404130692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gornostayev]

[Text] Moscow April 23—The two-day "Conference on Problems of Interaction of Independent States to ensure Ecological Safety," organized on the initiative of the Peace and Concord Federation, ended its work today. It was the first of the planned series of consultative meetings of scientific and public organization experts and scientific representatives from CIS countries and Baltic states, in which about one hundred delegates from 10 republics of the former Soviet Union took part.

Apart from issues of coordination of ecological problems solution within the framework of the CIS and Baltic countries, a citizens' treaty of independent states of the

new Commonwealth on ecological safety was also discussed, the draft proposal of which contains "the code of conduct for individual citizen and government" in the ecological sphere.

"To our regret, military and political problems occupied first and foremeost place of late, and questions of ecology remained in the shade," the Executive Secretary of the World Peace and Concord Foundation, Grigoriy Lokshin, told ITAR-TASS. "After the disintegretion of the Soviet Union the common ecological policy of republics vanished, at a time when in the common ecological space common difficulties were left behind. This led to a stoppage of work on most important projects of saving the Aral and the Caspian Seas and the normaliztion of the Chernobyl disaster area. That is why we would like to create an interstate body capable of influencing the ecologocal situation in the new Commonwealth. We will put this proposal before the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States during their forthcoming meeting in Tashkent."

Military

Central Asia Requests Afghan Border Defense

LD2504054192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Unoffical reports indicate that CIS reinforcements are defending the borders between Afghanistan and the Commonwealth's Central Asian Republics at the Central Asian Republics' request.

Shaposhnikov Agrees to Military Negotiations

LD2604091492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2007 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—Negotiations between Azerbaijani and Russian military delegations are scheduled for April 27 in Baku. According to Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, business manager of the Chief Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, the negotiations will cover the status of units of the 4th Army stationed in Azerbaijan. An agreement on holding negotiations in Baku was reached in Moscow on April 22 during a meeting between Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, First Deputy Russian Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Grachev and Azerbaijani Defense Minister Rahim Qadiev. The Russian delegation at the talks will be led by General Pavel Grachev.

Shaposhnikov Meets With Military Trade Union

LD2404194492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr (TASS)—What is important and essential in conditions of reform in the Armed Forces is the creation and the operation of the independent trade union of servicemen, Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, said at a meeting with the union's leadership today. He positively assessed the programs developed by the military trade union for the socioeconomic protection of regular soldiers and promised that the High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces will give them its comprehensive support.

Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov generally supported the need for concluding an agreement between the independent trade union of servicemen and the Supreme Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces. However, he suggested that its consideration should be postponed until all questions connected with the creation of the Ministry of Defense, the Army, and the Fleet of Russia are resolved.

Italian Daily Interviews Shaposhnikov

PM2404152692 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 23 Apr 92 p 12

[Interview with Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces, by Fiammetta Cucurnia in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] "Ukraine does not need the great Black Sea Fleet. Just 20-25 percent of it is more than enough. There are people both in Russia and in Ukraine who want everything right away. But, as always, the two extremes are incompatible, and we must do our utmost to bring the positions of the two sides closer together in proper proportion and avert a confrontation. Will it be possible? I know that the ways of the Lord are infinite." This was said by Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth built on the ruins of the USSR, as he sat in his large office behind the Lenin library. He smiled as he spoke, staring at me with his shrewd, lively eyes, as though forgetting the titanic task which Boris Yeltsin has assigned to him—to manage the terrible phase of the genetic mutation of the powerful forces of a former great power into a new military structure divided among Russia, the Commonwealth, and the national pressures of the former Soviet republics.

[Cucurnia] Marshal Shaposhnikov, in a few days time negotiations begin between Russia and Ukraine on dividing the Black Sea Fleet. Kravchuk, however, seems unwilling to soften his position. Do you think that it will be possible to find a compromise acceptable to all?

[Shaposhnikov] A delegation of the CIS military commands will attend these negotiations as experts. But I

want to say that Kravchuk is not expressing a personal opinion. Or at least, that is how I see it, since presidents are responsible people, on the whole. Especially since I had the opportunity to get to know him personally during the election campaign; and then after the elections we told one another repeatedly that Ukraine actually does not need the whole Black Sea Fleet and that it just needs part of it. I am sure that Kravchuk still believes this. The problem is that Kravchuk is surrounded by a certain entourage of aides who tell him: "Everything in Ukraine is ours." They add that over the years Ukraine has invested money in the Black Sea Fleet and in the Baltic and Pacific Fleets. But if that is the line of reasoning, then it must be said that everyone has invested, and Kyrgyzstan's and Tajikistan's rights are no less than anyone else's.

[Cucurnia] How do you intend to persuade Kiev to change its stance? Are you prepared to concede anything more?

[Shaposhnikov] I think that the only way is common sense. This is why it was decided to halt Kravchuk's and Yeltsin's decrees and to begin negotiations. Ultimately, on reflection, I think that we cannot allow ourselves to go too far in this direction. Neither Russia nor Ukraine. That is, we must not allow the situation to deteriorate to the extent of leading to a serious conflict, because a ship, a couple of aircraft, and a tank and a half are not worth a single drop of human blood.

[Cucurnia] Nevertheless, Marshal, there remains the problem of the Russians living in the territories claimed by the former Soviet republics—Crimea, for instance, which is demanding a referendum to separate from Ukraine; and Dniester, where the Russians have just created a 12,000-man army and are demanding independence from Moldova. Do you think that the CIS Armed Forces will be called on sooner or later to resolve these disputes?

[Shaposhnikov] I think that such a solution is unacceptable. The Crimea problem concerns Crimea, Ukraine, and nobody else. As for Moldova, "they have trodden on the rake," as the Russians say. It wanted sovereignty, and it has obtained it; but now it is at the top of the CIS' tables for the number of presidents per square kilometer, and other pretenders to that same sovereignty have emerged within it. I think that if we really do not want to destroy the region's historical roots, we could work for an intermediate solution, granting the Dniester region some autonomy, a special status that could become independence only if Moldova decided to annex Romania.

[Cucurnia] Marshal, after long hesitation, Russia has finally decided to create its own army, on a par with all the other former Soviet republics. How will this influence the stability and the very existence of the CIS' unified Armed Forces?

[Shaposhnikov] Indeed, it could all seem crazy at first sight: On the one hand there are the CIS Armed Forces, with their command, and on the other each republic is forming its own army. Actually each state is entitled to create its own national guard, and nobody can prevent it from doing so. Does this mean that the unified forces are destined to disappear? To answer this question you have to take account of two things—the strategic forces and the conventional forces. According to the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements, the nuclear weapons are now distributed on the territory of all four republics and will stay there probably until 1995-97, but their command remains unified and rests with the CIS Armed Forces. As for conventional weapons, apart from the republics that have decided to create their own armies, such as Russia and Ukraine, there is Byelarus, which intends to postpone the establishment of a national guard and which for the whole of the transition stage remains under the command of the CIS Armed Forces. It is a similar situation to that in central Asia and part of the Caucasus. So I think that the CIS Armed Forces will continue to exist for at least two or three years.

[Cucurnia] But how is this single body to be managed in a country where there are no common political and institutional structures?

[Shaposhnikov] We have no choice. I think that it is the most reasonable mechanism, for ensuring that the states that possess strategic weapons shoulder at least the financial responsibility for them. Or do you think that it would be better top distribute the nuclear weapons among all the former USSR republics?

[Cucurnia] Not everyone seems so optimistic. For instance, many republics complain that, by creating its own army, Russia will eventually absorb the best of the Soviet Armed Forces.

[Shaposhnikov] I do not share these fears. Each state is entitled to decide what kind of army it wants. Obviously in the future Russia will not need such an enormous army as that which currently exists on its territory. A reduction is inevitable. But we are talking about people here, not about crumbs on a table that can be sponged away. This explains the anxiety of the officers, who are afraid of being retired overnight. That will not happen. Neither Yeltsin, nor the Russian leadership as a whole intends to do this. It is an inevitable process, but it will take time. It will take neither two nor even three, but at least five years, and maybe more.

[Cucurnia] The Russian Army at present has 2.2 million men, apart from some 400,000 troops stationed in the former Soviet republics. How big a reduction do you think there should be?

[Shaposhnikov] I think that in five years—and no less—it can be reduced to about 1.5 million men.

[Cucurnia] The television and TASS are constantly issuing worrying reports on the mood of the officers of the former Soviet army. Just a few days ago the statistics institute announced that the percentage of suicides

within the military has now reached the record level of 1937, during the Stalinist repression. What is your impression?

[Shaposhnikov] I cannot say that sides among soldiers have increased so dramatically, and although it is true that they have risen, in any case it is by not more than 5 percent. Nevertheless, there certainly is a general sense of unease about the situation in the Armed Forces. In any case, how can you talk about discipline in the Armed Forces if there is no longer any discipline anywhere in the country? Furthermore, since the CIS was created officers and troops have been divided over the option for a single, a unified, or a national army. This greatly complicates the situation and makes it difficult to analyze. Only time and common sense can restore calm.

[Cucurnia] One of the West's main concerns in this critical transition period is the threat of possible incidents or terrorist actions that could affect the strategic military facilities of the former USSR. How realistic a possibility is this?

[Shaposhnikov] What the papers say about Soviet nuclear materiels sold to Iran is nonsense, fabrications. We have a detailed list of all existing materiels and, touch wood, nothing has disappeared yet.

[Cucurnia] What about the brain drain?.

[Shaposhnikov] I will tell you the same thing: There has not been a single instance of a drain of nuclear scientists. Nor can any such tendency be perceived.

Media

Prospects for CIS-Wide Broadcasting Viewed

PM2704093992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Apr 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Valentin Khlebnikov, deputy general director of the Russian "Ostankino" Television and Radio Company Technical Directorate, by Yuriy Petrovskiy under the "Contacts" rubric; place, date not given: "Easier To Agree on Single Area on the Airwaves"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Leaders of the technical services of the state television and radio broadcasting organizations of all former USSR republics have met in the Estonian capital. Participants in the meeting included Valentin Khlebnikov, deputy general director of the Russian "Ostankino" Television and Radio Company Technical Directorate.

Our conversation started with the International Broadcasting Channel. Yegor Yakovlev, chairman of the "Ostankino" company, recently came up with the idea of forming it. The essence of the idea is to combine the efforts of the countries on former USSR territory and to recount these states' life on television, thereby preserving a single television and cultural area. On the whole, Yakovlev's plan was supported by representatives of the program services of the state television and radio organizations of most of the former Union republics.

[Petrovskiy] Valentin Ivanovich, I would like to ascertain your opinion about the International Broadcasting Channel's prospects.

[Khlebnikov] Let me stress straightaway: I am a supporter of the International Broadcasting Channel. The prerequisites for creating it undoubtedly exist. Broadcasts from Ostankino on the former Central Television Channel One (it is proposed to organize the International Broadcasting Channel on its basis) can be received on the territory where almost 98 percent of the population of the countries that made up the USSR live. This program is relayed in five broadcasting zones—from Kamchatka to Lvov—corresponding to the time zones, at a time convenient for viewers.

Nor are there any fundamental technical obstacles to the exchange of programs between former Union republics, the creation of joint broadcasts of the most diverse content and form, or the "relaying" of images and sound even from very remote points.

Efficient collaboration among thousands of specialists is needed in order to ensure uninterrupted work. It must be said that this cooperation has been implemented and continues to be implemented daily and hourly: Engineers do not have to be persuaded of the need for it. They are perfectly well aware that without it their business (and many have been in the business all their lives) will perish. And the main thing is that hundreds of millions of people who will lose what is quite often their only window on the world will suffer. Therefore it is not surprising that seemingly automatically, without decrees from above, conferences of the technical leaders of the television and radio organizations of states that were formed in place of the USSR began to be held last year. The meetings took place in Moscow, Kiev, and Tashkent. So the current—Tallinn—meeting was the fourth.

[Petrovskiy] Is everything really going smoothly, are no conflicts arising?

[Khlebnikov] Conflicts, as you put it, are more often associated with financial questions, but a compromise solution can usually be found. Quite often the Russian side makes concessions in the audience's interests. For example, now none of the former Union republics has refused to take our company's broadcasts from Moscow. But, as a rule, a state relaying for its citizens broadcasts from another country, if it does not participate in financing the preparation of these programs, pays rent for communication lines and transmitters. But the republics that made up the USSR are saying that they have no money for this now. Russia—bearing in mind that tens of millions of Russians and Russian-speaking representatives of nonindigenous nationalities live in these countries—has taken on the main expenditures in the current year.

As regards production and technical problems, there are, of course, lots of them. Let us take the modern television set. It is a fusion of the latest achievements in electronics, computer technology, optics, chemistry, and technology. What can be said about the studio broadcasting equipment? In its complexity it is fully comparable with modern military technology. A single republic, let alone an individual television center, is not in a position to finance either its development or production, just as it is not in a position to organize this production.

[Petrovskiy] Can equipment be immediately purchased wholesale from the West or Japan?

[Khlebnikov] Undoubtedly domestic equipment is inferior to foreign models in many respects. Especially in ease of use. We have all seen a foreign journalist on television holding a very light television camera virtually one-handed, while the weight of a "homegrown" television camera is enough to bend our cameraman double. Nevertheless, our state television ensures picture and sound quality at a world standard practically without foul-ups. Of course, we would not be against making a major import purchase, but where are we going to get so much foreign currency? It will probably be possible to scrape enough money together to fit one television center with imported equipment. But there are almost 300 of them together with radio centers under state control alone. And just one professional news camera costs around $50,000!

No, we must carry out scientific development and organize production ourselves. I venture to suggest that, bearing in mind conversion potential, the cadres for this exist on former Union territory. Science and production capacities also exist. Besides, there is no longer anything to stop us also developing cooperation with foreign partners. But if we are to cooperate, it should be in developing joint technologies with the participation of Western capital, and not in buying the end product.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Apr

LD2504080392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0502 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS— Today's newspapers report the first post-congress meeting of the Russian Federation's Cabinet of Ministers. Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar announced a new scheme for increasing the prices of energy carriers. The scheme is the first step in the announced "adjustment" of the government policy, writes NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

The scheme fixes oil prices within the bracket of 1,800-2,200 roubles per tonne [as received] and 1,000-1,600 roubles per 1,000 cubic metres of gas for all users, except the population.

However, the newspaper's opinion is that the level of oil prices, which would have really relieved the budget of the multi-billion- rouble subsidy and meet the investment needs of the sector, should be about 2,600 roubles per tonne of oil and 1,800 roubles per 1,000 cubic metres of gas.

So, this decision is a palliative which does not resolve the urgent problems of the most promising branch of the Russian economy and is sharply at variance with the logic of the economic policy set out in the government memorandum, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out.

The newspaper TRUD quotes Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev as saying that an increase in the prices of energy carriers would tell on the overall level of market prices and would push them upwards by approximately 50 per cent. He believes that an increase in the prices of energy carriers is essential to stabilise the functioning of the industry and to curb inflationary processes.

In KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), the presidents of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, who participated in a meeting of the heads of state of Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan in Bishkek, set out their views on the military-political and defence problems of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Commenting on their pronouncements, the newspaper of the armed forces emphasises that the leaders of CIS states declared for a treaty on mutual security. The newspaper believes that the meeting in the capital of Kyrgyzstan "was an attempt to establish new relationships among countries in the region and set up close political and economic cooperation. This is a rather serious step by Kazakhstan and Central Asian republics which are obviously dissatisfied with how things in the CIS are getting on".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA believes that "the Bishkek accords do not contradict the CIS principles", but that "the attempt to establish a common Central Asian-Kazakhstan economico-political space proved unsuccessful".

The president of Turkmenistan refused to sign protocols on a common investment fund and an investment bank of the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, on the coordination of price formation and economic restructuring policies. There is practically no Commonwealth of Independent States any longer, the Turkmen leader stated.

Colonel-General V. Miruk, member of the state commission for the founding of a Ministry of Defence, an army and a navy of the Russian Federation, examines in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA methodological approaches to the elaboration of a military doctrine and the building of Russia's armed forces.

Miruk believes in particular that one of major peculiarities of the adoption of a military doctrine now is the fact that the traditional division of all countries into adversaries, allies and neutral states has become problematic.

Therefore a modern doctrine may not view any specific state or a coalition of states as an adversary.

The general emphasises a special role of the air-and-space defence, which in future is to become the main element in ensuring the national security of Russia and the security of the entire Commonwealth of Independent States.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, commenting on the decisions of the Sixth Congress of Russia's People's Deputies, wonders whether there will be a seventh congress. Commentator Sergey Razin believes that the main result of the congress is that the president has strengthened his authority while maintaining the strategic course towards market reforms.

"Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar will act in the same spirit but more cautiously and circumspectly, giving more attention to the social protection of citizens and balancing between the interests of the budget and those of his colleagues-industrialists," Razin writes.

The situation concerning the rights of the individual and ethnic minorities in Georgia are the subject of the article by Alan Kasayev in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict continues in Georgia following the downfall of the Zviad Gamsakhurdia regime: The economic, transportation and information blockade of South Ossetia has not been lifted. In this situation, much now depends on Russia's stand, the journalist believes.

With the Georgian-Ossetian conflict going on, Russia's recognition of Georgia would inevitably lead to mounting "sedition" among Russia's former autonomous entities in the north Caucasus, Kasayev concludes.

According to the Interior Ministry of Russia, the largest Chechen criminal groups operate in Moscow. About 140 joint ventures, cooperatives and small-business enterprises work for them. The groups have 500 secret addresses. Every week 10-15 million roubles are sent from Moscow to the Chechen Republic. These data are published in today's KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

In the hands of the Dzhakhar Dudayev regime these criminal groups may become a powerful lever of pressure on the Russian Government, the newspaper observes.

TRUD interviewed Patriarch Alexiy II of Moscow and all Russia on the eve of Easter, which for the first time in many years will be marked not as a religious holiday but as a country-wide public one.

"At this time of difficulties for our motherland, we must think about the soul," the patriarch said. "We must profoundly and impartially come to realise the guilt of the nation and our personal guilt. But this is not all, for the sense of guilt in itself can lead only to despair. What is needed is repentance which would become the beginning of a new way of life," he said.

International Affairs

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives Briefing

Comments on Libyan Sanctions

LD2404150592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1355 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandras Budris and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—The first Aeroflot charter flight to Tripoli today will bring home about 90 Russian military and military-technical specialists from Libya, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

Yastrzhembskiy recalled Russia had voted for Resolution 748 of the U.N. Security Council, envisaging the introduction of sanctions against Libya, and said it will fulfill the resolution's demands.

In particular, under the instruction of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, an inter-department commission has been set up to provide for evacuation of citizens of Russia and other CIS states and solve practical issues in this area.

The evacuation process, to include the solution of complicated organizational and financial issues, will be difficult, said Yastrzhembskiy. The commission will bear in mind the date of May 15, 1992, when all states are to inform the U.N. secretary-general on steps they have made to introduce the sanctions.

Libya Responds To Sanctions

OW2404164092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] From April 29 till May 3, Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, accompanied by a large group of Russian businessmen, will be visiting Egypt and Israel. This news was announced by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, at briefing on Friday [24 April].

Speaking about the implementation of the UN sanctions against Libya, he said that on April 17 the Libyan charge d'affairs in Russia was called to the Russian Foreign Ministry and asked to cut down the corps of Libyan diplomats in Russia by 6-7 people. The next day, the Libyan side responded by asking the Russian embassy in Tripoli to do the same.

Comments on Karabakh, Japan

LD2404195792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandras Budris and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—Participants in the Karabakh settlement must focus on termination of bloodshed in the area instead of procedure issues, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

In his words, the Russian Foreign Ministry intends to continue playing the most active mediating role in search for peace in Nagorno-Karabakh and contribute to the achievement of an acceptable cease-fire formula as the first step towards lasting peace.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has refuted recent mass media reports, including those with the reference to Japanese officials, saying that a compromise on territorial issues was achieved during the March official Japanese visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, said the spokesman.

In his words, "the comparison of stands on this issue, based on unchangeable approaches elaborated by the former Soviet Union and Japan, has again proved their incompatibility".

At the same time, the Russian Foreign Ministry confirms its readiness to continue searching for complete normalization of mutual relations and conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan on the basis of principle of legitimacy and justice put forward by the Russian president in September, 1991, stressed Yastrzhembskiy.

Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy will go on a working visit to Israel and Egypt between April 29 and May 3.

The first Aeroflot charter flight to Tripoli today will bring home about 90 Russian military and military-technical specialists from Libya.

Yastrzhembskiy recalled Russia had voted for resolution 748 of the U.N. Security Council, envisaging the introduction of sanctions against Libya, and said it will fulfill the resolution's demands.

In connection with tragic events in Guadalajara, Mexico, which resulted in loss of life, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy on behalf of all Russian people expressed sincere sympathy to the friendly Mexican people.

For the first time in the long history of briefings the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative was not asked a single question.

Further on Nagorno-Karabakh Talks

LD2404124292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandras Budris and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—It is not disputes about procedure but an end to the bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh

which should be at the center of attention of the participants in the settlement process in the region, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated at a briefing here today.

In connection with the reaction of some Russian media to the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet's statement on the meeting due to be held in Mineralnyye Vody at the initiative of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev but which did not take place, the director of the department stressed that the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry "was not insisting that the meeting be held precisely on 24 April." The minister's proposal, according to Yastrzhembskiy, in no way fixed the format of the meeting in order to avoid any disputes on procedural questions. That was why all the interested parties were invited to take part in it "in a personal capacity."

In the future the Russian Foreign Ministry, Yastrzhembskiy said, plans to play the most active mediatory role in the quest for peace in the region and to help find an acceptable formula for a cease-fire as the first step on the path to a lasting peace.

Specialists Return From Libya, Comment on Media

PM2704094392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Andrey Cherepanov report: "Libyans Still Treat Our Specialists Amicably"]

[Text] A Tu-154 has landed at Sheremetyevo-2 international airport after special flight 406B Moscow-Tripoli-Moscow. Our military and military-technical specialists, trade mission and Aeroflot personnel with members of their families were on board. Some 80 people in all were in this group returning from Libya to Russia.

I met former Soviet Army officer Vasiliy Klochkov first. A few more people filling out customs declarations were gathered around a small high-legged round table which we approached. People were waiting for their luggage and were willing to answer questions.

Klochkov himself had spent three years working in Tripoli. He helped train military personnel at a Libyan Air Defense unit. There were many people like him in the unit. Moreover, our specialists are working all over Libya—in army subunits and at military plants. As you know, more than 90 percent of the Libyan Army's military hardware is of "Soviet" manufacture.

When I asked how Libyans reacted to Russia's and other CIS countries' subscribing to the UN sanctions, I got a totally unexpected response. My interlocutors criticized television (First Channel) and radio, which are received on Libyan territory, for providing misinformation and incorrect coverage of events linked with our military and military-technical specialists' stay in Libya. In particular, the report carried last Friday to the effect that all former Soviet advisers have severed their contracts does not match the real situation.

As for the rumors of anti-Russian sentiments in Libya, none of my interlocutors confirmed this. "I can say nothing bad about the Libyans, although they have an unpredictable character," Vasiliy Klochkov remarked. "After the provocation against our embassy we had very nearly decided that bad times had begun for us. But no. The local command reassured us: A handful of young extremists cannot reflect the views of either the Libyan Government much less the Libyan people. We were not conscious of any enmity or even a hint of it after Russia joined in the UN sanctions. And Libyans expressed regret that we were leaving."

While their husbands were bent over the customs declarations, the wives complained that the specialists were paid no attention by the Russian Embassy in Tripoli, the consulate, those organizations that sent them to Libya, and those that assumed the functions of the abolished Soviet departments. "No one tells us anything. We were simply neglected, forgotten. No one has anything to do with us. Personnel from the embassy and other establishments were the first to start leaving Libya."

"There have been reports here in Moscow that some of our military specialists have already signed private contracts with the Libyan side and are staying in Libya," I put that question to Klochkov. "I don't know. I have heard nothing about that," he replied. "If anyone had decided to stay, everyone would certainly know about it." The Russian Foreign Ministry, which I also asked, also had no information confirming the former Soviet military's desire to say in Libya and work on private contracts. Although I was told that private contract wages would be between six and 10 times greater than former Soviet Army military specialists' "Libyan wages."

As for plans for the future, many of the military intend to leave army service. During their time spent working in Libya, they got the impression that no one needs them.

Impact of Sanctions Against Libya Viewed

PM2404140192 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with O. Rybalchenko, deputy chairman of the presidium of the "World Today" public committee, by correspondent V. Afanasyev; date, place not given: "Detrimental to Oneself"—first paragraph is SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Text] The "World Today" public committee has addressed an open letter to Russian Federation Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev. It was published in the press 9 April. In this connection our correspondent V. Afanasyev turned to O. Rybalchenko, deputy chairman of this organization's presidium. This is what he said:

"An attentive study of the text of Security Council Resolution 748, adopted by 10 votes on 31 March, with

five abstentions (India, China, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Morocco), shows that this document runs counter to Russia's national interests and infringes its political and economic rights. We have appealed to Minister A. Kozyrev in order to draw our public's attention to this question.

"In addition to the political and moral problems, the fulfillment of this resolution could cause serious harm to Russia's economy. As is known, Russia's representative on the Security Council supported the application of the following sanctions against Libya: a ban on the supply of aviation equipment, means of transport, and military gear; a ban on deliveries, the issuing of licenses, technical consultations, assistance, or services in the sphere of cadre training connected with the provision, production, and servicing of the aforementioned technical means; a recall of all officials or representatives who are in Libya giving the Libyan authorities advisory assistance on military questions, etc.

"It is not hard to be convinced that this resolution is of a one-sided nature, since it touches only on those aspects of economic cooperation that are characteristic of Soviet-Libyan trade and commercial ties alone. It is essentially discriminatory against both Libya and Russia. It seems to me that it would be very useful to introduce a practice whereby the 'cost' of such resolutions to Russia would be officially brought to the notice of our taxpayers.

"Unfortunately, Russian diplomacy has recently found itself drawn into the West's political games to establish a 'new world order' in which the role of the 'dutiful majority' is allocated to Russia and the other CIS countries.

"So, Russia's relations with one more Arab country have been rendered more complicated. The state will incur considerable losses as a result of breaking contracts with Libya. Meanwhile, A. Kozyrev tries to convince television viewers that he personally rejects strong-arm methods in interstate relations, bearing in mind those cases when it is necessary to defend the interests of the Russian-speaking population in 'nearby foreign parts.'"

Further Reportage on Situation in Afghanistan

Diplomat's Visit Viewed

OW2404131492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to a highranking Russian diplomat, taking into account the present situation in Afghanistan, to send Russia's special envoy there is premature. In an interview with DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] correspondent the diplomat dismissed the assertions of Iona Andronov, adviser to Russia's Vice-President, who was recalled from his visit to Kabul, that responsibility for disrupting his mission lies on Russia's Foreign Ministry. In Tashkent where I. Andronov stopped on his way to Kabul he received an instruction from Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy based on information supplied by Russia's Embassy in Afghanistan. He was ordered to refrain from leaving for the Afghan capital and stay in Tashkent "till the circumstances are clarified". I. Andronov answered that he was coming back to Moscow, but went to Kabul instead.

That was where the cable demanding his immediate return to Moscow, signed personally by A. Rutskoy, reached him. As the Russian diplomat told DP's correspondent, having been briefed on the complex and uncertain situation in Afghanistan, the Vice-President decided that the mission of Russia's special envoy was "not expedient".

Afghan Ambassador Interviewed

LD2404220192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Interview with Afghan Ambassador M.D. Razmyar by correspondent A. Goryanov; place and date not given; questions and answers in vernacular with correspondent's superimposed Russian translation; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Goryanov] Mr. Ambassador, several leaders of the opposition are laying claim to power in Kabul. First, how likely is it that the city will be stormed? Second, what are the claimants chances of success? And third, if there is an attempt to settle scores with members of the Homeland Party isn't it likely that they will dig into trenches in the mountains?

[Razmyar] I will be frank: For us, war has never been a means of settling differences. We have said that frequently. The only way is a political solution, the path of talks. Incidentally, they are underway and, in my view, that is the most important thing. Yes, of course, some leaders of the Mojahedin, such as Hekmatyar, for instance, are putting forward claims to power in Kabul. Fortunately, not just us, but the mujahidin themselves appreciate full well the absolute danger of such ambitions.

The threat of war in Kabul exists, of course, although excellent chances have appeared now to put an end to the war, not just in the center but in the whole of Afghanistan, too. Even Hekmatyar has begun making contact with the authorities. There are reports about that. The preference for a political settlement of the crisis was expressed during these contacts.

Afghan 'Threatens All Russians'

LD2504211192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The situation in the Afghan capital is changing literally by the hour, which is why reports from

there are contradictory at times. Only one thing is obvious: The town is totally controlled by mujahidin forces. All 147 staff of the Russian Embassy are still in Kabul. Here is a video report by our correspondent Vadim Kukushkin:

[Kukushkin] People are rejoicing today in the streets of Kabul. The point is that a coalition government has been set up and people hope that the bloodshed will end. It is not yet clear how this can happen. A person has said here just now that he threatens all Russians and those who are against Islam. We are for Islam and against the Russians and Americans. The storm of Kabul, planned for tomorrow, will not take place. [passage omitted]

A rally took place near the Soviet Embassy this afternoon. Those attending it voiced threats toward Russians. Right now, while I am reporting, the mujahidin have seized the television center. Vadim Kukushkin, from Kabul.

Embassy Personnel Remark

LD2504150492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The ultimatum put forward by the mujahidin regarding the resignation of the current Afghan leadership runs until 26 April, however events, or rather the mujahidin themselves, have accelerated this process. Today, they have taken over strategic sites in Kabul. What was the situation in the town at 1300 local time? This is what Boris Biragov, our correspondent in Afghanistan, has reported:

[Biragov] Those working in the Russian Federation's Embassy have just witnessed the following events. A group of mujahidin armed with grenades and submachine guns approached the posts of soldiers defending the embassy and disarmed them.

At the microphone is Sayid Alia Merzov, the secretary of the embassy, who held talks with the commander of the mujahidin detachment. Merzov, if you please.

[Merzov] During talks with the commander Pahlawan Murad, who is a member of the Afghan Islamic Unity Party, it became clear that they are carrying out the orders of their leadership by disarming all the posts along the roads leading to the Ministry of Defense. In all likelihood, they will also disarm the Ministry of Defense. He assured me that there is no danger directly affecting the embassy. Having disarmed the troops, they are planning to assume responsibility for protecting the embassy.

Guards at Embassy Change

LD2504111792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent German Baykov]

[Text] Kabul, 25 Apr—The mujahidin subdivisions of the Islamic Society [Jami'at-e Eslami] of Afghanistan seized strategic sites in Kabul today. Control over the presidential palace, barracks, and central television was established without use of weapons. This happened soon after Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil made a statement that the government is ready to hand over power without reservation to the Mujahidin Council formed in Peshawar on Friday, 24 April.

At the same time, according to other reports, 20 guerrillas of the radical Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of Afghanistan of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar today seized one of the main entrances into a range of buildings belonging to the formerly ruling Homeland Party. It has also been reported that government troops are controlling the Afghan National Bank and the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The guards of the Russian Embassy have changed, too. It is now being guarded by members of the Islamic Unity [Ettehad-e Eslami] Party of Afghanistan. No attempts were made to penetrate the territory of the embassy.

Early this morning in the capital automatic gunfire was heard. However, the situation in the center of Kabul remains calm now.

Situation Near Embassy Noted

LD2704101392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The situation around the Russian Embassy in Kabul remains relatively calm. Commanders of the mujahidin from the Afghanistan Islamic Unity Party who are guarding the building promise to ensure the safety of the Russian diplomats. This was revealed today to an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Sergey Tretyakov, deputy head of the Directorate for West Asia of the Russian Foreign Ministry. According to him, the Russian Foreign Ministry is in permanent contact with the embassy. The latest telephone call was made this morning.

Reports from Kabul say that though military clashes in the Afghan capital continue, the situation in the immediate vicinity of the Russian Embassy is normal.

According to Sergey Tretyakov, the question of an evacuation of embassy personnel has not been raised. This would not be safe in light of the armed actions taking place in the city. The staff of the mission are confident they are safe, and requested in today's telephone call that their relatives be told not worry about them.

Multilateral Contacts in Afghanistan Stressed

OW2704131392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1245 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By reporters M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev, and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Ministry still hopes that it will be possible to avert another outbreak of violence in Afghanistan. As DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent

was told by a highranking Russian diplomat, with this aim in view Russian diplomacy decided to establish direct contacts with all interested parties, including some Afghan opposition leaders.

Vladimir Snegirev, member of the committee for the affairs of Afghan war veterans under the Prime Ministers' Council of the CIS countries, succeeded in meeting with Ahmed Shah Masud and handing him a special appeal of the Russian Embassy in Kabul.

According to information available to Russia's Foreign Ministry, Ahmed Shah Masud responded to the appeal "with understanding" and said that not only Russia, but also himself is "in favor of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan". He agreed with "the need to settle as soon as possible the issue of releasing the former Soviet servicemen held by his units" expressed in the appeal.

A special message from Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy was handed through the Russian Consulate in Mazar-i- Sharif in the North of Afghanistan to Col.-General Dostum (ethnic Uzbek), commander of the 53rd infantry division, who leads the Military Council of the North of Afghanistan.

A similar message from A. Rutskoy was handed to the leader of Afghanistan's Ismailite community Said Mansur Nadari. Both General Dostum and Said Mansur Nadari responded positively to the call of Russia's Vice-President for resolving all problems in Afghanistan by peaceful means.

In connection with developments in Afghanistan Russia's Foreign Ministry maintains active contacts with the U.N. Secretary General, the U.S., Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the foreign ministries of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Visits Middle East

Arrives in Saudi Arabia

LD2404211992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2020 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Apr—Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Federation foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh 24 April, Friday evening, on a brief working visit.

Saudi Arabia is the first of six countries in the Persian Gulf region to be visited by the Russian foreign minister during his current tour. It is planned that on 25 April, Saturday morning, Andrey Kozyrev will meet Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and acting minister of foreign affairs of Saudi Arabia, and will then be received by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

One of the main aims of the visit is to establish personal contacts between the leaders of the two countries. At the forthcoming talks the sides will discuss possibilities and the future of the development of relations between Russia and Saudi Arabia. They will examine the situation in the region and in the international arena on the whole. One should think that the situation in Afghanistan will also be touched upon. The leadership of the Saudi Arabia is taking measures to render assistance in freeing Soviet POW's in Afghanistan, and is establishing contacts with the Afghan opposition in order to resolve this problem.

It is also expected that an exchange of opinions on the range of issues of expanding cooperation and contacts in the sphere of credits and investments, issues of the situation in the Persian Gulf region, of seeking a settlement in the Middle East and of creating a system of collective security in the region will take place.

The Russian side is interested in deepening all-round relations with the Gulf states and is disposed to the development of long-term, mutually beneficial cooperation with them. The Russian minister will fly to Kuwait this afternoon.

Holds Meetings 25 Apr

LD2504120292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Apr—The second day of the brief working visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Saudi Arabia started today with a meeting with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and acting foreign minister. The sides discussed a range of questions relating to bilateral relations, the region's situation, and a number of topical international problems.

Prior to the start of the talks, the Russian minister stated that "in his view, his visit to the Persian Gulf countries testifies that Russia intends to develop in every possible way mutual cooperation with the states of this region." According to Kozyrev, the visit to Saudi Arabia will make it possible to establish contacts with the country's leadership and to discuss important problems of mutual interest.

Saudi King Receives Kozyrev

LD2504122892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1111 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Apr—Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud today received Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The minister passed on to him a personal message from Russian

President Boris Yeltsin. The conversation, which lasted about an hour, touched on a wide sphere of questions of bilateral cooperation.

Riyadh Talks Outlined

LD2504162392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Special correspondent Andrey Ptashnikov reports from Kuwait]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, the capital of the state of the same name, is already the second stop for the Russian foreign minister. The first stop was in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

Because of the brevity of our stay and the lack of communications I was, unfortunately, unable to come on the air from their. Therefore, at first I will very briefly report on what happened in Riyadh. Andrey Kozyrev had two meetings there: with Saudi King Fahd and with the Amir Sultan who is simultaneously minister of defense and foreign minister.

The discussions were held in three main areas: first, the possibility of economic cooperation; second, interaction between the two countries on their policy in the Middle East; and, finally, contacts in religious and cultural spheres.

By the way, after all, one should not forget that Saudi Arabia is the center of the Muslim world, the custodian of the Muslim mosques. Russia, however, as to the number of inhabitants with the Islam creed, holds one of the leading places in the world.

Approximately the same issues are being discussed and will also be discussed at the talks in Kuwait, with that country's amir and foreign minister.

It must be said that the Russian participants in the talks are faced with one more task: to smooth over the manifestly unfavorable impression of the Kuwaitis from our—at the time still Soviet—so-called aid in eliminating the aftermath of the Iraqi aggression: the point is that the former USSR took on the obligation of extinguishing 70 oil well fires, but, because of our perpetual sluggishness, which manifested itself in the struggle by various of our organizations for the large amount of hard currency, only four were extinguished.

Nevertheless, both in Riyadh and Kuwait gratitude is being expressed to our country for its consistent position in condemning Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit to Saudi Arabia

LD2504135192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Apr—At the end of his two-day working visit to Saudi Arabia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for Kuwait, the second stage of his working tour of Persian Gulf countries. Kozyrev will also visit Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE, and Oman.

In an interview published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia supports the efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council to strengthen political and military security in the region. He added that Russia, as a permament member of the UN Security Council, is in a position to facilitate the adoption of measures which would serve precisely this goal. The minister noted with satisfaction that rapid progress was being made in the development of ties between Russia and the countries of the Arabian peninsula. He stressed that Russian President Boris Yeltsin pays great attention to the deepening of relations with those states.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Interviewed

PM2404150992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report on interview with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Russia 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj by Boris Ivanov; place, date not given: "Russian Foreign Policy Must be Completely Purged of Ideology, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Moscow Believes"]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's tour of Persian Gulf countries, which begins 24 April, reflects Moscow's desire to play a new role in the region's political life, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Russia believes.

The present situation, characterized by the end of the cold war and the opening of Russian embassies in Saudi Arabia and Israel, as a result of which Moscow now has diplomatic relations with all states in the Near East, is objectively spurring the Russian Government and, above all, the Russian Foreign Ministry on to pursue a more active foreign policy in the region, the Kuwaiti diplomat said in an interview with IZVESTIYA's correspondent.

Formerly, when foreign policy was often elaborated in the CPSU Central Committee building on Staraya Ploshchad, rather than at the USSR Foreign Ministry, the main objects of the former Union's diplomatic activity were the United States, European states, and, to some extent, Japan. The Gulf countries, the ambassador noted, remained a Soviet diplomatic backwater, despite the fact that the development of economic and trade links with the region could help Moscow to rectify the state of affairs in its own economy very quickly and, in the long term, obtain just as many benefits as Russia is promised by present relations with European states.

According to the Kuwaiti ambassador, the Persian Gulf countries have historically regarded the Russian state as a natural business and trade partner, whose potential has never been fully exploited because of Soviet foreign policy's large ideological content. It now appears that

this situation can be rectified. "Kuwait and its neighbors are currently interested in strong and reliable relations with Russia. We need your industrial technology and know-how, we need the security and political stability that partnership with Russia can offer," 'Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj stressed.

He is profoundly convinced that Russian-Kuwaiti relations must have their ideological crust completely removed. According to him, the vast majority of the delegations that visited Kuwait in the past consisted mainly of party functionaries and their henchmen. These trips were dictated by ideological considerations and contributed to the achievement of certain ideological and propaganda objectives, what were then communist ideas. "Now this practice must be a thing of the past. Russian-Kuwaiti relations must be based on the two sides' mutually advantageous interests."

The head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission noted that Russian-Kuwaiti political relations are better now than they have ever been before. "Our views on many international issues are very similar and on some (no mean number either) they are identical, so the main task facing Moscow and Kuwait today is to raise relations in the economic and cultural sphere to the level of political relations."

The main point, in his view, is to overcome the mental blocks of the past and the bureaucratic obstacles: The endless negotiations, fruitless discussions, and numerous consultations in which, as a result, past initiatives have gotten bogged down. So 'Abd al-Mohsen pins great hopes on the "young, dynamic" diplomats of "Kozyrev's team," capable of displaying initiative, demonstrating political will, and worthily representing Russia's interests in the Gulf countries.

In this connection, the ambassador said in conclusion, the Russian foreign minister's trip to Kuwait is notable also for the fact that it is the first visit ever at such a high level in relations between Moscow and Kuwait. Hitherto the highest officials to visit Kuwait have been deputy ministers.

Arrives in Kuwait

LD2504201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1934 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpt] Al-Kuwait April 25 TASS—Immediately after arriving in Kuwait from Riyadh for a short working visit, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev went to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry to hold talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim. The first round of talks started tete-a-tete. [passage omitted]

Meets Kuwaiti Amir

LD2604130292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1057 GMT 26 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is on a visit here, was received today by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Welcoming the Russian minister, the amir underlined the traditional friendly relations between the two states and expressed his appreciation to Russia for its utmost support during the hard days of the Iraqi aggression. He spoke warmly about his recent visit to Moscow. The Russian minister handed over a personal message from Boris Yeltsin to the amir of Kuwait.

During the conversation, A. Kozyrev confirmed Russia's interest in developing multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation with Kuwait. This in particular applied to Moscow's readiness to assist in the strengthening of its defense and security capability. He spoke of the deep sympathy toward the people of Kuwait in connection with the hard ordeal which fell to its lot during the Iraqi intervention. He assured the Kuwaiti side that Russia will rigorously work for the full implementation of UN Security Council decisions on the liquidation of the aftermath of Iraqi's aggression. The minister expressed his gratitude for the financial aid which Kuwait, despite its own difficulties, has given to Russia.

Today A. Kozyrev also met the heir apparent, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah. During talks with the prime minister, which took place on 25 April, the Russian minister said that Moscow "has no other interests in the region apart from strengthening stability and peace. We are ready for long-term mutually beneficial cooperation with Kuwait and other states of the Gulf region in developing ties in new directions, such as conversion and the creation of new technologies," the head of the foreign policy department defined more precisely. The Kuwaiti side expressed great interest in expanding cooperation with Russia in various fields, including the guaranteeing of security in the region, a high ranking Russian diplomat, who was taking part in negotiations between the heads of foreign policy departments of the two countries, said at a meeting with journalists. According to him the idea of signing a bilateral "treaty on cooperation in the field of security" between Russia and Kuwait was particularly considered at the negotiations. He also said that Kuwait is prepared to take part in the implementation of a number of projects in the Russian oil industry. A. Kozyrev invited 'Abdullah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council of Arab States, to pay a official visit to Moscow.

Ships Invited To Visit

LD2604160192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Kuwait April 26 ITAR-TASS—The Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah,

emphasised during his talks with the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, his visit "undoubtedly opened new horizons of Kuwaiti-Russian cooperation." According to Shaykh Jabir, it will be highly expedient and desirable for the Russian naval ships to visit ports of Kuwait. Both sides would cooperate in ensurement of conditions of stability and security in the Gulf.

Both sides touched on the question of contacts between Muslim population of Russia and the CIS as a whole. The sides unanimously affirmed their opposition to extremism in any form, including religious fanaticism.

The situation in Afghanistan also came up during the talks. The Amir of Kuwait said he would do all everything possible to help release of former Soviet prisoners-of-war in Afghanistan. Andrey Kozyrev assured that Russia will take all necessary measures to assist Kuwait in seeking release of Kuwaiti citizens still held in Iraq.

Shaykh Jabir spoke in favour of further broadening and intensification of bilateral dialogue.

Kuwaiti Talks Viewed

LD2604164192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by station special correspondent Andrey Ptashnikov from Qatar]

[Text] As you know, the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev to the Persian Gulf countries continues. Here is our special correspondent Andrey Ptashinkov reporting from Qatar.

[Ptashnikov] Above all I want to note the very high pace at which this trip is taking place. Judge for yourselves: This morning the Russian minister ended his visit to Kuwait. He is now in Qatar, and finally this evening he will arrive in Bahrain. The programs of all his visits are practically the same and include his meetings with the amirs and foreign ministers of those countries.

The questions under discussion are also about the same. These are economic links, cooperation in providing security in the Near East, involvement in the conversion which is being carried out in our country, and contacts on a religious, naturally Muslim, basis.

At the talks in Kuwait the issue is naturally Iraq's recent aggression against that country. Gratitude was expressed to Andrey Kozyrev for the fact that Russia supported Kuwait in its struggle against the aggressor. The Russian minister was also asked to give assistance in releasing Kuwaiti prisoners of war who are still held by Iraq. Furthermore, the sides discussed the possibilities of concluding a treaty on cooperation in the sphere of security in the Persian Gulf area. Incidentally, such treaties have already been signed by Kuwait with the United States and Britain. [passage omitted]

Arrives in Qatar

LD2604160692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1447 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Doha, 26 Apr— Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, who arrived on a one-day visit in Doha, the capital of Qatar, today held talks with Shaykh Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, this country's minister of foreign affairs. During the course of the talks, the sides considered a set of issues connected with the development of a "constructive and mutually advantageous" cooperation in the most varied of spheres and exchanged opinions on the situation in the Persian Gulf region, on measures for the strengthening of stability and peace in the region, as well as on a number of international problems.

Meets With Qatari Amir

LD2604180792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Doha April 26 ITAR-TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on a visit in Qatar was received by Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani. Kozyrev handed over a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to him.

During the conversation Shaykh Khalifah emphasised the importance and usefulness of personal contacts between leaders of countries in the strengthenings of partnership. He said that Qatar is striving to develop mutually-advantageous equal cooperation with Russia.

Upon concluding the visit Kozyrev left for Bahrain.

Kozyrev's working visits to six countries of the Persian Gulf have the purpose to conduct political consultations, established personal contacts, discuss ways of developing cooperation and goodneighbourly relations. This is the first visit of a head of the Russian Foreign Ministry to the region.

Arrives in Bahrain

LD2604194792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1902 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Manama April 26 ITAR-TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived for a brief working visit in Bahrain's capital Manama on Sunday [26 April] evening. The programme of his visit includes a meeting with Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al Khalifah, with Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman al Khalifah, and Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Bin-Hamad al Khalifah.

Kozyrev continues touring Persian Gulf countries. He has already visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. After Bahrain, the Russian foreign minister will visit the United Arab Emirates and then Oman.

Holds Talks With Bahrain Amir

LD2704084392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0806 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Manama, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The amir of Bahrain, 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, today received Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, in Manama. Kozyrev is here on a brief working visit. He handed the Bahraini state leader a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Greeting the Russian minister, the amir noted the great significance of such exchanges of visits in the development and extension of cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that contacts should continue to be maintained between the leaders of Bahrain and Russia.

Andrey Kozyrev noted that Russia has no military-political interests to pursue in the Persian Gulf region and, he said, supports the efforts made by the countries of the region to strengthen peace and stability.

Also taking part in the talks were the prime minister of Bahrain, Sheikh Khalifah 'Isa-Bin Salman Al Khalifah, and the minister of foreign affairs, Sheikh Khalifah Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa [name as received].

Talks between the leaders of the Russian and Bahraini foreign policy establishments began immediately after the audience with the amir.

Yeltsin Passes Directive on South African Ties

OW2504134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has passed a directive setting forth further moves to broaden relations with South Africa. On June 1 and 2 he intends to receive South African President Frederik de Klerk who will arrive in Russia for an official visit.

Besides that, Russia is planning to invite President of the African National Congress Nelson Mandela to visit Moscow in May as a guest of the Russian president.

With due account taken of the results of a Russian trade delegation's visit to South Africa, the ministries of foreign economic relations, foreign affairs and economy, as well as other ministries and departments, have been instructed to draft agreements on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation with South Africa. These agreements are expected to be signed in Moscow during the South African president's visit to Moscow.

Official Interviewed on African Economic Ties

LD2404221692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with Valentin (?Smirnov) of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations on economic ties with Africa in the new conditions—live or recorded, (?Smirnov) speaks in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] [(?Smirnov)] When we speak of the prospects of this cooperation today we must mention the cooperation between Africa and the Soviet Union because Russia is the legal successor of the former Soviet Union, its international commitments in particular. And this must not be forgotten, because Russia was responsible for the bulk of the projects in the African countries. As you know, today we live in new conditions—those of transition to a market economy. Frequently approaches to our foreign economic ties and their legal foundation are changing. The projects that the former Soviet Union carried out in Africa remain mostly Russian companies. At the moment Russia fully controls the situation and one needn't fear any difficulties in these projects. I want to reaffirm that all the commitments of the Soviet Union concerning economic cooperation with Africa will be fully carried out by Russia.

[Announcer] The steelworks in Ajaokuta, Nigeria, was the biggest industrial facility built by the Soviet Union in Africa. The project that should be commissioned in the near future involves people from several other former Soviet republics in addition to Russia. What is the situation there now?

[(?Smirnov)] The construction in Ajaokuta is international. Sixty percent of the experts there are from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. I must say that the staff is united and the differences existing between Commonwealth countries do not affect the construction. In other words, the project lives according to its own rules, regulated by the contracts and Nigerian legislation. By the way, the purely financial problems that existed there a month ago have been resolved. I mean the differences between Russia and Ukraine on foreign currency payments to their experts. The thing is that in the past the money was transferred to the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank. Now the experts want their earnings to be transferred to the banks of their countries. As a result, several Russian commercial banks offered to accept the money the builders of the Ajaokuta wanted to transfer from Nigeria to their countries. [sentence as heard] In other words, Russia assumes the role of a mediator in currency settlements between Nigeria and former Soviet republics involved in the project.

[Announcer] And the last, probably somewhat unexpected question: How can the recent Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow affect Russian-African cooperation?

[(?Smirnov)] The Congress discussed primarily domestic problems, of course. Naturally, the foreign ties that interest our ministry were not discussed. Still, one should not forget that the congress debated economic problems and the transition to a free market economy. A market economy is the foundation of our current cooperation with Africa. The fact that President Yeltsin confirmed the strategy of this government to promote market relations proves that Russian-African cooperation in economy has good prospects.

[Announcer] Our guest speaker today was (?Valentin Smirnov) of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations.

Government To Use Ruble in CIS Trade

PM2704095792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "How To Trade With CIS"]

[Text] Under a Russian Government resolution, output from Russian enterprises, associations, and organizations, with the exception of highly important kinds of output, will be supplied to CIS states at free market prices. The ruble has been adopted as the single currency unit for reciprocal transactions. Ministries, departments, and various executive organs in Russia and the Russian republics have been tasked with preserving and developing cooperative sectoral and intersectoral ties for deliveries of output not envisaged by intergovernmental agreements, generally at a level of least 70 percent of the 1991 level. Unimpeded transit of freight to CIS countries at maximum tariffs agreed with them will also be opened up.

CIS Economic Cooperation Committee Set Up

LD2604205292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Russia has set up a Committee for Economic Cooperation with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and a former deputy to Yegor Gaydar at the Center of Economic Policy, 39-year old Vladimir Mashits, has been appointed to head the new set-up. Vladimir Mashits feels Russia needs an updated strategy for more reforms, though its chief objective lies in the restructuring of its economy: Russia sees two angles to the restructuring. The first may be described as technical. Russia has advanced the industries that are no longer regarded as strategically important in the world economy, and it has yet to catch up with the world in advancing the key industries. It has yet to convert its bloated military industrial complex to civilian production. And it has to bring the balance of prices in the domestic market closer to the balance of prices on the world market. In the second place, Russia must bring in diverse forms of ownership. It must hurry up with commercializing its ill-proportioned state sectors.

The Russian reforms depend to a great extent on the future of the new Commonwealth. But what does Vladimir Mashits have to say? Two tendencies have emerged. On the one hand, a Commonwealth republic may want more sovereignty; on the other, it is being drawn closer to other republics in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth may be expected to find its identity at a crossroads of the two tendencies. Also cooperation with one group of republics (?would) spell deeper integration. Russia will advance relations with another group of the Commonwealth republics on the basis of formal agreements and special bodies will coordinate relations between Russia and the third group of republics in the new Commonwealth. In future the Commonwealth of Independent States will resemble a flaky pie with layers of different economic fillings. Existing reality must be accepted as the case, as well as the idea that the different republics joined the Commonwealth for different reasons. The tradition must be dropped to resolve all problems at one stroke and under one scenario; mutual respect, tolerance and the ability to make political maneuvers will make the Commonwealth a success.

Those were points made by the chairman of Russia's Committee for Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth Republics, Vladimir Mashits.

Ministry Aide Comments on CIS Relations

PM2704104792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 92 p7

[Interview with Vladimir Savelyev, head of the Foreign Ministry Administration for Relations with the Supreme Soviet and Political and Social Organizations of the Russian Federation, by Yelizaveta Leontyeva; date and place not given: "Building Relations with the CIS States Is Harder Than Maintaining Relations With Long-Standing Partners"]

[Text] On Saturday deputies addressed one of the most complex issues—Russia's position within the CIS and the problems of the CIS as a whole—which could hardly be considered in sufficient depth when done in such an offhand manner, with proceedings already winding down. One global problem which was only touched on superficially, due to lack of time, was Russia's diplomatic relations with the CIS states. Their development to date was the subject of a conversation between our correspondent Yelizaveta Leontyeva and Vladimir Savelyev, head of the Foreign Ministry Administration for Relations with the Supreme Soviet and Political and Social Organizations of the Russian Federation.

[Leontyeva] Vladimir Arkadyevich, it remained unclear until the very last moment whether the question of Russian-CIS relations would be discussed at the Congress. Should it have been discussed at all?

[Savelyev] I think it should have, and as early as possible. But deputies became carried away by the correlation between executive and legislative power. The momentum was lost. Meanwhile, the outside world was anxiously following our progress, commenting on the actions of the Congress, drawing conclusions, and taking

an active stand. It was assessing our strength as a nation and the basis on which it can build relations with us.

Precisely for that reason, we circulated two Foreign Ministry documents among deputies beforehand, in order to remind them that our Congress has to discuss and formulate foreign policy issues as well as matters concerning domestic policy. To a certain extent, the documents are a summation of the joint discussion of Russia's foreign policy concept which we have been holding with various Supreme Soviet committees and factions since February last year.

[Leontyeva] Our state is still so young: It is only a few months old. What results have we been able to achieve in this short space of time?

[Savelyev] Russia has secured the understanding and support of the world's leading countries. Its international recognition as the successor-state of the former USSR is assured. It is no accident that the Russian Federation has taken its place as a great power in the UN Security Council without undergoing any special procedure; it was not even required to be formally accepted as a member of the United Nations—unlike the other former Union republics.

[Leontyeva] You have probably often heard the Foreign Ministry criticized for building relations with nearby states far more slowly than with distant countries....

[Savelyev] I would put the question somewhat differently. Can you say that the concept of our relations with the United States is more developed than the concept of our relations with Iran? We have a history of relations with each country: That is the reality which cannot be ignored. From the viewpoint of international legal status, the level of our relations with the CIS countries is different from the level of our relations with long-standing partners. As far as the former is concerned, the incubation period is too short for us to have developed relations similar to those which are long established and traditional.

[Leontyeva] How many embassies are being opened in the former Union republics?

[Savelyev] We are opening a total of 14 embassies. Special delegations to work with the CIS countries are also being formed in conjunction with our parliament. With their help, we must tackle the questions of protecting the rights of the Russian-speaking population, borders, the economy, culture, and much more.

[Leontyeva] As far as I am aware, ambassadors have been appointed to most of the former Union republics.

[Savelyev] Yes, to Ukraine, Byelarus, Armenia, the Baltic states, and a number of other countries. I cannot tell you their names, because not all the appointments have been agreed.

[Leontyeva] Is there a problem with premises for these embassies?

[Savelyev] The embassies are not open yet, although premises have been chosen or are being sought. Of course, the easiest thing would be to place the ambassador in a hotel and raise the flag in front of it....

[Leontyeva] As if he were a visiting ambassador?

[Savelyev] A bit like that, yes. In any case, the mission would not be up to the normal standard. An isolated, protected building is required—something fairly solid, shall we say.

[Leontyeva] I suppose it is easier for the other CIS states to open embassies in Russia, because they have always had permanent missions here?

[Savelyev] Yes, they could serve as the basis for embassies.

[Leontyeva] What is the principle for selecting cadres for embassies in the former Union republics?

[Savelyev] As a rule, they are very authoritative people with a great deal of experience of diplomatic work. Some of them have been ambassadors in Western countries but, as far as I am aware, they do not feel they have been demoted. After all, they have been given the honor of forging a path and adding something new to the history of diplomacy. To a layman's eyes, however, there is a minus side to this work: People will be going to work in a country with a wrecked economy and without hard currency.

In principle, three-quarters of the Foreign Ministry's work is now concentrated in the CIS. Admittedly, the paradox is that this is within our capabilities but not within our means. But, like any other department, the Foreign Ministry does not have the right to independently redefine its budget. Although if you look at foreign policy decisions in our relations with the former union republics, they are always made at the level of heads of state, heads of government, and leaders of parliament. As a rule, there is no need to work at this level with states where relations are well established and stable.

[Leontyeva] We are already seeing different approaches in the CIS states' relations with Russia. Some of them—like Kazakhstan, for example—want closer contacts. Others are establishing ties with their neighbors outside the former USSR. How does the Russian Foreign Ministry take account of this?

[Savelyev] This factor cannot be ignored. Naturally, states where Russian-speakers form a large percentage of the population require heightened attention. Special attention must also be paid to countries where there is war, where conflicts are constantly arising, and where territorial disputes flare up.

[Leontyeva] Are there any states among the former Union republics which do not wish to establish diplomatic relations with us?

[Savelyev] Not at the moment, no. There are just some differences of opinion regarding the pace and level of their development, which is perfectly understandable during a spontaneous surge of national self-assertion.

[Leontyeva] In his report the foreign minister confidently expounded the idea that negotiations are the only way Russia will resolve conflicts in the CIS. What is the ministry's role here?

[Savelyev] The Foreign Ministry plays a very direct role in negotiations and in working out mechanisms to resolve conflicts. As you know, Kozyrev had only just left the negotiating table in Moldova when he delivered his report to the Congress. He was immediately showered with criticism. I can say only one thing: It is very difficult to work where there is bloodshed and where there is no civilized framework that is correct in the eyes of international law. It is not easy in these conditions to protect our fellow citizens in other states, and it is hard to regulate economic and other relations. It is hard to use the diplomatic arsenal which has been built up over the centuries. We are obliged to create the requisite framework.

Postponed Ukrainian Discussions Assessed

MK2204115592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 22 Apr 92 p 1

[Igor Yermakov report under "Forecast" rubric: "Trip to Odessa Delayed Again"]

[Text] Russian-Ukrainian talks on the division of the Black Sea Fleet were to have begun in Odessa today. But, as was to be expected, their opening was postponed at the last moment. By a week, as it stands. The reason is no secret—it is the participants' fundamental lack of preparation. It took both sides the whole of yesterday to determine the composition of the delegations, but in vain. It was intended notably that the Ukrainians would by headed by Vasiliy Durdinets, deputy chairman of parliament. However, the entire Ukrainian leadership is away at present, and he has to carry out the duties of head of state.

Admittedly, it is easier for Ukraine: At least it knows what it wants from these talks and from the definitive resolution of the whole complex of questions connected with the fleet. No one has as yet managed to conclusively formulate Russia's position. The vice president, the foreign minister, and the people's deputies have all expressed their own opinions. But they have proved unable to elaborate a common opinion even "at home."

The point is that the situation is greatly complicated by the difference in approach of the high contracting parties. Kiev is clearly adhering to its chosen course—all ships in the republic's ports with the exception of those carrying nuclear charges should be Ukrainian. Moscow is approaching the problem far more broadly. For the majority of Russian politicians, the question of the division of the fleet is firmly connected with the will of both the seamen and the population of Crimea—the main base of the Black Sea Fleet. However, neither parliament, nor the congress, nor the president are in a hurry to say specifically what Russia's interests are. But it is high time. After all, the scheduled participation in the talks of the mayor of Sevastopol and the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet is by no means coincidental. The Crimean Tatar national movement is peering out from behind their backs, and it is quite capable of becoming a tangible phenomenon in the political arena in the near future. Are we ready for dialogue?

To all appearances, all these circumstances will considerably complicate and protract the Russian-Ukrainian dialogue, and the talks in Odessa will be reduced to a simple exchange of opinions at the level of experts.

Federation Affairs

Government Meeting Held; Yeltsin Absent

LD2404154492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Government gathered today for its first session since the Congress. The main matters under discussion were Russia's budget for the second quarter, regulated prices for energy sources, and the problem of agrarian reform.

Within the next two weeks, gasoline will cost 7.8 rubles [R] for grade AI 93 and R6.80 for grade AI 76. The prices are approximate. Economics Minister Nechayev stated that this will lead to an overall increase in market prices of around 50 percent.

In assessing the prospects for an increased budget deficit in the second quarter, Yegor Gaydar said that they were dangerous and critical, and ruled out the possibility of a direct reduction in all items of expenditure by 5-7 percent. The first deputy prime minister regards the general slump in production, increased unemployment, inflation, and the structural crisis in the leading sectors of the national economy as the main problems in Russia's economy. In this connection one of the cabinet's priorities in its reforms is the establishment of stable links with leading Russian businessmen.

Boris Yeltsin was not at the meeting. [video shows footage of government meeting, showing Gaydar, Rutskoy, and others in attendance; Gaydar is shown chairing the meeting]

Gaydar Chairs Meeting

LD2404192392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Today's session of the Russian Government examined the plan for increasing the price of oil. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent V. Perfilyev] Unfortunately, theory and our daily reality unequivocally indicate that following on from the rise in the price of fuels, prices on other goods will start to rise. According to Andrey Nechayev, the Russian Federation minister of economics, the general level of prices on the market should increase approximately one and a half times. Why then is the government taking this step? It appears that this measure is essential for the stabilization of the work of industry and in order to curb inflationary processes.

The budget for the second quarter was also examined at the session. Vasiliy Barchuk, the finance minister, quoted the example that expenditure on defense over a three month period was 126.8 billion rubles. This is an unbearable burden for the budget, but for the present, no progress is being made on the issue of reducing Army numbers.

The material presented to members of the government today states that a further fall in the volume of industrial production is predicted during the second quarter.

[Begin video recording] [Gaydar] Now we really are making the transition from the crisis management that we have been forced to conduct over the last four months to a large-scale intensification of the reforms affecting all of the basic strands of society's existence.

[Correspondent Vasilyev] And at the Congress there was talk that even before the end of the Congress, the issue of some sort of partial reorganization of the government should be resolved. Now this issue is being deferred.

[Gaydar] We have decided that there is no need to make any hasty constitutional decisions. Everything will be decided calmly after due consideration, without repeating any previous mistakes and after analyzing all the various points of views. In any case, this issue will be resolved quickly. [end recording]

'Cavalry Charge' Approach Dropped

PM2404201992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "At Russian Government: From a 'Cavalry Charge' to a Rise in Energy Prices"]

[Excerpt] The Russian Government "must switch from a 'cavalry charge' approach to reforms to systematic and consistent work." That was stated by Yegor Gaydar, first vice premier of the government, addressing a session of the Russian cabinet in the Kremlin yesterday.

During a discussion of the question of the results of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and the government's next steps, Yegor Gaydar said that the cabinet "has received what is essentially a vote of confidence" from the Congress and a "mandate for the further implementation of the reforms."

Talking about the main areas of the government's work after the Congress, Yegor Gaydar said that the short-term tasks included the settlement of the fuel price question before 10 May and the solution of the problem of enterprises' insolvency by granting some of them state credits. On the question of the government reorganization, the first vice premier said that in the next two-three weeks proposals are to be drafted on reforming the Industry Ministry and "reinforcing the group of socially oriented departments." Yegor Gaydar stressed in this context that today, in its internal reorganization, the government "is operating not on the basis of political tasks, but on common sense considerations."

Among the government's medium-term tasks, Yegor Gaydar mentioned the restructuring of the mechanism of foreign economic ties, including the streamlining of the export regulation system, and the solution of the cash deficit crisis by introducing cashless transactions. In this regard the first vice premier stressed that "it is necessary to moderate all demands for increased social payments because they will be virtually impossible to implement before August," when higher denomination banknotes will be introduced.

Yegor Gaydar regarded work on the program for Russia's economic revival as the government's long-term task. [passage omitted].

Rutskoy Interviewed on Session

LD2404192492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russia's government should switch from a cavalry charge toward reform to systematic and consistent work, said First Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar at a seeting of the Russian cabinet in the Kremlin today. [video shows men sitting at long table with Yegor Gaydar at the head of the table; on his left is Aleksandr Rutskoy]

[Correspondent S. Vozianov] The president was not at the meeting. This is probably why the Cabinet of Ministers was not reshuffled today and prime ministerial candidates not discussed. It was decided to focus on the budget and land reform matters. Regarding the nature of the meeting: [video cuts to show Rutskoy speaking to correspondent]

[Rutskoy] It was a working meeting. There were of course arguments, debate, to-ing and fro-ing. That is quite natural, it is part of life. But even though this was the first session since the Congress, I have to say it was quite constructive in approach. Regarding land reform, you see, I have many proposals and calculations and we are continuing to work it all out. Why? Because there will not be any reform unless we calculate where we might end up and what kind of situation might arise, what

stages we should go through, and who is responsible for this or that stage of a specific policy program and specific financing for this policy program.

The task now is to set up a land and agriculture reform center, a science and research team to think through all the policies and weigh the options. Then we have to hold a government sitting dedicated to this, when there will already be a package of documents drawn up and dealing with this subject alone. Why? Because, quite obviously, if there is not enough food available at affordable prices the reforms will go nowhere and the end result could be crisis point. And this is exactly what we cannot allow to happen.

Land Reform Council Proposed

LD2404152992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—The legal foundations for land reform existing in Russia do not meet the requirements of market relations. This was stated today by Russia's Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Addressing a meeting of the government, he noted that the contradictory nature and the imperfection of normative acts are resulting in the available land being squandered and in land speculation, and are hampering the development of agricultural production. Aleksandr Rutskoy, who on the instructions of Russia's President Boris Yeltsin is in charge of implementing agricultural reform in the country, proposed the setting up of a land and agro-industrial reform center.

According to him, this non-government organization will, together with the state structures, assist reforming the countryside. It will be engaged in attracting entrepreneurs into implementing agrarian reform, coordinating their activity in producing means of production, developing conversion for the agroindustrial complex, and mobilizing additional financial resources for investing in the agro-industrial complex.

Attached to the center, it is intended to set up a land and agro-industrial reform council, whose immediate task will be to revise the legislation on land which is in force and draw up a concept and action program in the sphere of agrarian reform. The center will also include an international financial foundation, an international association of corporations, and a foundation for the support of enterprise in the sphere of production and agriculture.

The government supported the proposal of Russia's vice president.

Nechayev Outlines Fuel Price Plans

LD2404110192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0917 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—The outline for alterations in oil and gas prices was submitted to members of the cabinet today at the session of the Russian Government. Minister for the Economy Andrey Nechayev said that the plan envisages the introduction of fixed lower and upper price limits "between which enterprises are free to maneuver" and the introduction of a sliding scale of duties.

The limits for oil have been set at between 1,800 and 2,200 rubles [R] per tonne and for natural gas at 1,100 - 1,600 per thousand cubic meters for all consumers apart from the population. Provision of gas for subsequent sale to the population is to be effected at the current price of R260 for 1,000 cubic meters. The sliding scale of duties received by the federal budget makes excessive price hikes unprofitable for the producers of energy resources. Sales of oil and gas at prices which exceed the limits will be regarded as a violation of state pricing discipline and a fine to the value of the excess profit obtained will be transferred to budget receipts.

The draft decision on the state regulation of prices for energy resources, which has been examined at the session and which could, according to Andrey Nechayev, be put into effect within the next 10-14 days, also contains proposed retail prices for gasoline.

In the opinion of Andrey Nechayev, the increase in fuel prices will "be reflected in the overall level of market prices, and will lead to these increasing by approximately 50 percent." The minister said that the present increase in fuel prices is essential to stabilize the work of industry and to curb inflation.

Barchuk Forecasts Budget Deficit

LD2404152192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1235 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr—In the first half-year of 1992 the budget deficit of the Russian Federation is expected to be 4.8 percent of the overall Gross National Product. This was stated in figures presented today at a Russian Government session during discussion of the question of the execution of the budget in the first quarter and on the budget for the second quarter of this year.

Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk, speaking at the session, reported that the budget income in the first quarter amounted to R366,400 [rubles] million, and expenditure to R345,000 million. However, taking into consideration that some of the first quarterly expenditure had to be implemented in April, the budget deficit in the first

quarter in fact amounted to R24,300 million. Vasiliy Barchuk recalled that parliament had allowed for a quarterly deficit ceiling of R67,000 million.

According to the Finance Minister, in the second quarter the level of the budget deficit will rise in comparison with the first quarter. This is linked with the need to implement a number of urgent measures on the social protection of the population, credit support for enterprises, and other measures. It is anticipated that in the second quarter the budget of the Russian Federation will be R374,600 million for income and R597,500 million for expenditure.

Vasiliy Barchuk said that in the second quarter expenditure on defense will amount to R126,800 million, or five percent of GNP. In his opinion, this expenditure "is too heavy a burden for the budget." They have had to be increased because of the need to maintain the troops which have been transferred to Russian jurisdiction although they are situated in the countries of the CIS, and also because of the increase in prices for arms purchases and the upkeep of the personnel. He admitted that "at the moment there have been no moves on the question of reducing the strength of the army."

The figures presented to the members of the cabinet today show that a further drop in the volume of industrial production is forecast for the second quarter. Whereas in the January-March period the slump in production was 13 percent, in the second quarter it is forecast to be in the order of 6 percent in relation to the first quarter. Government experts believe that in the April-June period the price increase index will be 1.56, which is below the same index for the first quarter.

Summing up the budget debate, Yegor Gaydar, first vice president of the government, stated that those indices for the expenditure section which the Russian budget is setting out in the second quarter, "are very dangerous." Describing the quarterly budget as "critical," he did not rule out the possibility of a direct reduction in all the expenditure sections by five-seven percent. "We will be forced to pursue the kind of finance policy that the opportunities of the state allow us," he said.

Ulyukayev Reports on Second Quarter

OW2404213692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In informing journalists of the results of the Government session in the Kremlin this Friday [24 April], the Cabinet economic counsellor Aleksey Ulyukayev placed special emphasis on the report made by First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar in which he addressed the results of the 6th Congress of People's Deputies and outlined the Government's future objectives.

According to A. Ulyukayev, Yegor Gaydar is convinced that the Cabinet has received from the Congress a warrant of credibility for further reforms, and all the necessary corrections will gradually be effected without any fuss or haste. In particular, in the next two-three weeks, the Cabinet will focus on government reorganization measures.

The First Vice Premier deems it necessary to proceed from reorganizing the work of the Ministry of Industry which, essentially, is duplicating the functions of the former branch control agencies. For this purpose, a special commission will be set up to effect a reorganization of the industry control system.

In addition, the Cabinet intends to reconsider the priorities of the ministries in charge of social programs, and organize the "work of the Government with an accent on supervision over the fulfillment of its decisions".

Ranking as secondary on Gaydar's priority list, are the issues of reconstructing the system of external economic regulation, improving the efficiency of taxation, and overcoming the current cash crisis. The Government intends to overcome the lack of "live cash" by resorting to complex measures, such as a nation-wide introduction of payment by cheques, and transition to a weekly wage payment system in order to bolster the circulation of the ruble.

As regards long term prospects, the Cabinet will concentrate on the program of Russia's economic development seeking to attract into its economy the resources from international financial organizations. In Gaydar's opinion, the country's greatest difficulty today lies in the fact that the government "can finance practically any project, whereas Russian enterprises and companies still lack the investment plans elaborated after Western patterns".

A. Ulyukayev noted that the session resolved to adopt a uniform fuel price structure. In particular, it introduces two threshold levels for oil prices - from 1700 to 2200 rubles a ton [as received]. Whenever prices are raised by the producer, the excess tax will progressively grow likewise.

The Cabinet adopted a draft resolution on the introduction of price increase limitation factors for all the transportation services due to the recent fuel price rise.

In the words of A. Ulyukayev, the budget will be "softer" in the second quarter of the year. It is attributed, first and foremost, to the fact that in the first three months the threat of hyperinflation was successfully averted, as well as to the situation with payments in industry. The government economic counsellor insists, that the budget deficit for the first quarter of the year, as regards the republican payments, comprised only 0.3 per cent of the gross internal product. Russia's consolidated budget in the first quarter of the year, on the other hand, featured 21 billion rubles in the black.

The second quarter of the year will see an increase of expenditures for social programs and further allocations

to the Armed Forces personnel which have come under the jurisdiction of Russia. As a result, the estimated consolidated budget deficit will amount to 157 bil. rubles. This government proposal will need an approval by the Supreme Soviet.

The Cabinet, in principle, approved Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's proposals in regards to setting up a non-governmental commercial structure—a control center of the agricultural complex' radical reform.

Asked by the IF [INTERFAX] correspondent about the reason for Boris Yeltsin's absence from the session, A. Ulyukayav answered, "considering a strictly economic nature of the problems on the agenda, the President entrusted its conduct to Yegor Gaydar".

'New Faces' To Be Introduced

MK2604124092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Yeltsin in No Hurry To Shuffle the Deck"]

[Text] Commenting on the results of the [24 April] cabinet session A. Ulyukayev, economic adviser to the Russian Government, explained that the president had instructed Ye. Gaydar to chair the meeting inasmuch as the agenda comprised exclusively economic issues.

In reply to a question from KURANTY's correspondent Ulyukayev announced that the government is preparing to introduce several new faces, but no personnel and structural changes are planned for the next 2-3 weeks. The president has no intention of hurriedly changing members of the government. The session did indeed note, however, the need to reorganize the departments of the Ministry of Industry, which are essentially fulfilling the functions of the sector ministries.

Journalists asked about the plan to create a center for land agro-industrial reform which was submitted to the cabinet by Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy. As became clear from Ulyukayev's comments, it was a question of instituting a nongovernmental commercial organization whose basic aim would be to seek funding for investment in agriculture.

Yeltsin Plesetsk Visit, Satellite Launch Delayed

LD2504154292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The planned launch of the Resurs-2 satellite has been postponed at the Russian space launch complex of Plesetsk. Space vehicles of this series film the Earth in the interests of geologists, farmers, and environment protection specialists. According to representatives of the military command of the space launch complex the postponement of the launch of the satellite to a later date was caused by technical reasons, in particular, by the failure of one of the systems of the Soyuz carrier rocket. It has become known at the same time that Boris Yeltsin's trip here has also been postponed. His future visit is connected with overdue political decisions on making this space launch complex Russia's main space port. The technical facilities that exist here make possible the launching of not just satellites for national economy purposes from here but also manned spacecraft.

Yeltsin Decree Closes Several Embassies

OW2504134292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree closing Russian embassies in several countries. Under the decree and according to a proposal by the Russian Foreign Ministry diplomatic missions will be closed in Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Lesoto, Liberia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sierra-Leone and Togo.

The decree offers the Russian Foreign Ministry to pass to consular institutions in these countries. The Finance Ministry was charged with finding means to defray expenses in hard currency and rubles, caused by the closing of the embassies.

Railroad Troops Placed Under Russian Control

PM2404134092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 92 First Edition p 2

[Decree No. 392 of the Russian president "On Russian Federation Railroad Troops," signed by Russian President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 18 April 1992]

[Text] In connection with the reorganization of Union ministries on the territory of the Russian Federation and with a view to ensuring the maintenance of equipment [tekhnicheskoye prikrytiye], restoration, and new construction of railroad transport facilities on its territory I resolve:

1. To take under Russian Federation jurisdiction the Railroad Troops Main Directorate and formations, units, institutions, military training establishments, and enterprises belonging to railroad troops stationed on Russian Federation territory with all their personnel, control organs, authorized arms, combat and special hardware, buildings and territory, funds and appropriations allocated for their upkeep, and other property.

2. To form Russian Federation railroad troops on the basis of the railroad troops stationed on Russian Federation territory, and on the basis of the Railroad Troops Main Directorate to form a Railroad Troops Main Directorate attached to the Russian Ministry of Architecture, Construction, and Housing and Utilities.

3. To make Russian Federation railroad troops responsible, in conjunction with the Russian Ministry of Railways and the "Transstroy" State Corporation, for implementing the tasks of equipment maintenance and restoration and construction of railroads on Russian territory in the interests of ensuring defense and also of performing other tasks.

4. To retain for Russian Federation railroad troops the established conditions of staffing and procedure for performing military service, as well as the rights, privileges, and advantages prescribed for these troops' personnel.

Funding, material, technical, and other kinds of support for the activity of the railroad troops and socioconsumer and pension provision for servicemen and members of their families shall be effected using budgetary appropriations and Russian Federation funds.

5. To task the Railroad Troops Main Directorate under the Russian Federation Ministry of Architecture, Construction, and Housing and Utilities, in conjunction with interested ministries and departments, to formulate within two months and submit to the Russian Federation Government for ratification a draft Statute on Russian Federation Railroad Troops.

6. To bring this decree into effect from the time of signing.

[Signed] Russian President B. Yeltsin.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 18 April 1992.

Gaydar Addresses Economic Scientists, Officials

LD2404212792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 24 TASS—"A closer interaction of all forces supporting the economic reform is needed in this time difficult for Russia", First Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar told today's meeting with economic scientists, people's deputies and representatives of the Russian business community and mass media.

He said at the current stage of reform the government is to pass over from the crisis management to the elaboration of medium- and long-term economic policy. This intention was supported by Academician Leonid Abalkin, who called on the government to "describe the final aim of reforms," in addition to prospects for the medium and long terms.

Abalkin warned the government against the Russian transport isolation from Europe, that may "suffocate" Russia with customs dues. Besides, the academician called on promoting agriculture on the criterion of productivity of a state farm or a private farm, instead of the ideological criterion.

The meeting at the Moscow President-Hotel began regular sessions of the Interaction Club set up on the initiative of the working center of economic reforms under the Russian Government.

Next sessions with participation of leading experts will discuss in detail the major problems of economic transformations—privatization, foreign economic activities and the credit-monetary system.

In the opinion of Club founders, the informal contacts between government members and public representatives will contribute to the achievement of greater mutual understanding and timely correction of the reform course.

Health, Education Proposals Put to Khasbulatov

PM2704082992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA—ITAR-TASS "News" report: "Demands of Doctors and Teachers Heard"]

[Text] Yesterday the leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia met with Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, to whom they conveyed proposals and a Supreme Soviet draft resolution designed to tackle the very acute problems of health care and public education. The Supreme Soviet chairman expressed his understanding of the acuteness of the problem and the need for the most rapid response to it. Opportunities for tackling it do exist, as the state budget for the remaining part of the year has not yet been approved by the Supreme Soviet.

Shokhin Interviewed on Price Rises, Pensions

LD2604175992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Studio interview with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin by correspondent Sergey Makarov, on 22 April; from the "Facing Russia" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Makarov] Good evening; after an interval caused by the Congress, the Facing Russia program is on the air again today. I will recall that this program is devoted to meetings with representatives of the Russian Government and contains topical first-hand information. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin is in our studio today.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich, here is the first question to you: What has caused these changes and corrections in government decisions? I have in mind the latest corrections. Was it pressure brought to bear by the Congress or some other reasons?

[Shokhin] I must say that while speaking about the social aspects of the policy which is being implemented by the current government, the decisions which have been adopted literally over the last few days during the Congress were not caused by Congress pressure, or by the desire to please people's deputies or the population in

this complex political period, which could even be decribed as a period of political struggle. They were caused by the implementation of the government's intentions, which it announced far in advance of the Congress. Specifically, to speak about raising wages in budget-funded branches; we planned to correct a minimal level of wages in the second quarter and we have done it.

In his first speech at the Congress the president said that the minimum wage would be 900 rubles [R] a month, and that all the rates and wages in budget-funded branches would increase accordingly. I must say that the Supreme Soviet gathered in a Congress interval yesterday, most probably under the influence of these decisions, and adopted a law on minimum wages on the basis of the Presidential decree's provisions.

The minimum wages of R900 will be introduced in all budget-funded branches by 1 June, as follows from the presidential decree and the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet. The government proposes and intends to introduce this minimum stage by stage. First, no later than from 1 May, we would like to introduce the new salary in education and health care, and, perhaps, in light of heightened social tensions, in those regions where there are the largest gaps between remuneration of budget-funded staff and wages in industry.

[Makarov] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, excuse me for interrupting you: will this somehow cover pensioners? After all, this increase should affect pensions, too.

[Shokhin] Absolutely. The acting law on state pensions establishes a strict relation between a minimum pension and minimum wages. Therefore, in spite of the fact that two weeks ago—a little over two weeks ago—a law was adopted which set the minimum pension at R800, yesterday the Supreme Soviet set a new minimum pension of R900. However, there may perhaps be an element of disorganization here for rayon social security bodies.

[Makarov] What will this amount to?

[Shokhin] They have barely managed to begin recalculating the pensions on the basis of the R800 minimum, then in two weeks they will be landed with a new minimum. However, I think that the regions which are best equipped with computers—Moscow, for example—will manage to recalculate pensions on the basis of the new minimum.

However, to tell the truth, the Russian Government considered that we could have made do with a R800 minimum by preserving the mechanism of monthly increases in the event of higher price rises. Moreover, I still consider that this mechanism is more in the interests of pensioners than the mechanism proposed by the Supreme Soviet—to index the rise in prices in the second quarter sometime toward the fall. But these are just details and I do not think that they should be made an object of contention between the government and the Supreme Soviet.

[Makarov] In general, indexation already featured in this program?

[Shokhin] It was indeed a feature of it. It is another matter that we wasted a certain amount of time with the Supreme Soviet specifying figures and waiting for official data. As far as the government is concerned, we rely exclusively on official data from the State Statistics Committee, and we calculate the minimum income for pensioners and workers on the basis of this official data. Let me remind you that the State Statistics Committee is accountable to the Supreme Soviet and to the government. Even if the government wanted to it would not be able to manipulate this body.

However, in the first place, I would like to note that the increase is quite considerable. It must be said that for pensioners, as well as the increase in the minimum pension, there will also be an increase in the average size of pensions by virtue of the fact that the Supreme Soviet proposed a machanism for updating the wages from which pensions are calculated; that is, pensions will be increased for those people who were allocated pensions long ago on the basis of a low wage, and on average this will increase the pension to somewhere around 50 percent above the minimum.

In spite of this, we cannot say that the increase in incomes for those people paid from the state budget, for pensioners, and for the whole population fully reflects the increase in the cost of living. Inflation is in full swing in our country. While it is not rising at the same rate as in January, all the same the current estimate of inflation is one percent per day.

[Makarov] Well, several rounds of price rises are expected now, in summer or say until the end of summer. Will the government be able to keep pace with this?

[Shokhin] You know, to keep pace with price rises, if this means a timely indexation of incomes, well then, falling behind is imminent owing to purely technical and economic reasons. Speaking about economic reasons, I have in mind the fact that it is impossible to foresee a price rise in advance and to provide people with such incomes since, in this case, an increase of incomes will automatically lead to an increase in prices. Whereas in other cases there still are options, here everything will already be predetermined, and a price rise will necessarily take place. Therefore, we are against increasing incomes in advance. We have to wait for official statistics, and delays and gaps are inevitable here.

I would like to say that even given every intention to index-link incomes and to bring them in line with the real increase in the cost of living, we are now facing a very big, perhaps the biggest, problem of the next few months, which is a crisis of cash. According to our calculations, all the summary increases of incomes, pensions, and wages will amount to at least R250 billion or even R300 billion by the end of this year. The capacities of our Goznak [Russian mint] are such that the Goznak

cannot issue more than R60 billion a month. We will go over to a new R5,000 banknote in about two and one-half months. This means that within the next few months we will encounter a very acute cash crisis.

Now, too, many pensioners, people working in budget-funded branches, miners, and factory workers suffer, not because their wages have not increased enough, but because they cannot get what they have earned owing to the physical absence of money. I for one believe that promises to raise incomes not backed by cash can turn into—not even promises but an actual increase of incomes—not backed by cash could bring about even more acute social problems than an insufficient growth of incomes. All this should be kept in mind when trade unions and employees of many branches put forward demands for raising their wages by four, five, or 10 times. It should be clearly understood that at this moment there are very strict limitations. As the declaration on support for economic reform says, social policy should also be implemented, taking into account real economic budgetary and monetary limitations.

[Makarov] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, in connection with what you have just mentioned, recently or to be more precise even in the last few days, everybody saw the conditions in which the government works, in what conditions the government has to work. I have in mind the friction which emerged between the government and our Russian parliament. All this work which has been placed upon your shoulders and which you have to continue with in these difficult conditions—how is it going to be executed? I am speaking about the parliament—how are you going to work with it?

[Shokhin] You know, despite all the friction, this Congress was the government's first serious political test, and I can confidently tell you that many members of the government have learned to work with parliamentaries, to work in the lobby, with journalists, and so on....

[Makarov, interrupting] One must note that, incidentally, the government's rating has gone up very strongly after the Congress.

[Shokhin] Well, also because the government showed that it can take on not only a professional economic battle but also a political one. I think the population has shown more liking for the government not only because the economic policy has suddenly become more popular, but also because people have seen sincere and honest people, as I would like to believe, who did not want to neglect the decisions adopted by the Congress, but who wanted to firmly determine the framework within which the government was going to work. The fact that the Congress in essence agreed to comply with this condition put by the government and showed its wisdom and common sense demonstrates, on the one hand, the Congress' capability to cooperate with the government, and on the other hand, that the government can also see its policy through to the end. One would like to see the line of economic reforms through to the end, too.

Speaking about future work with the parliament, of course it will not be simple. You know that yesterday the president proposed that the government fulfil its obligations. A mechanism of agreeing personal appointments, of consultations on personal appointments, which is quite favorable for the parliament in conditions of the constitution in force, has been proposed. The parliament has broad possibilities for adopting decisions. I can say, for instance, that when adopting a decision on raising wages or pensions, we agree, calculate, and recalculate for a long time, unfortunately. I observe that it is much easier for the Supreme Soviet to make decisions. It is sufficient for one commission to make a proposal. Yesterday, for example, in the interval decisions were made in the heat of the moment, so to speak. For example, I still do not know exactly what text was adopted for the decision to implement the law on raising the minimum wage. There were so many amendments. Whether the government amendments or the deputies' amendments were adopted will be known after the official document appears.

Nonetheless, we have no choice but to work together and we have to raise the efficiency of our cooperation because, to tell the truth, I know from my perhaps small experience of work in the government and from my contact with the population as a member of the government, that people in general do not care whether someone is a member of this government or a leader of parliament. Their only concern is that things should get done. Therefore, we cannot now divide up responsibility and each blame the other.

Therefore—by the way, the declaration on support for the reform shows that the deputies have accepted part of the responsibility and we have to carry this burden to the end. I cannot say what this end will be.

[Makarov] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, our time is coming to an end. God grant that we manage to carry this burden to the end. All the more so since people have, I think, once again shown faith in your government. Well, as far as parliament, or at least as far as work with parliament, is concerned, what further can one wish for—only for success. Because looking at our parliament, I think there is nothing more to wish for.

[Shokhin] Thank you. That is a fine wish. I think that if it is fulfilled that is half the success of the government's activity.

[Makarov] With this we bid you goodbye. I remind you that in the studio was Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin. Goodbye.

Central Bank To Issue 5,000-Ruble Notes

LD2204180192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—The Central Bank of Russia will start issuing 5,000-ruble banknotes next summer, Georgiy Matyukhin, chairman of the Central

Bank of Russia, said in an interview to IZVESTIA, published on Tuesday [21 April]. The new banknotes put in circulation in Russia will make it possible to change swiftly to Russian currency, "if need be" and if other CIS member states express no desire to preserve the common ruble space, he pointed out.

According to Matyukhin, all kinds of payments by cheque and clearing account-settling are being actively introduced in order to overcome cash shortage in Russia, which amounted to almost 40 billion rubles early in April. However, the Central Bank is pinning its main hope on the issuing of new, more valuable banknotes. It is planned to put in circulation a large number of coins and 5,000-ruble banknotes. "The coins will feature the two-head eagle. The banknotes will have no portraits of Lenin, but will feature the Kremlin instead. There will be the inscription 'Banknote of Central Bank of Russia' on the new banknotes," Matyukhin said.

In his opinion, these measures will make it possible to swiftly change to Russia's own currency, if other independent states continue to pursue the policy of alienation. "But if corresponding agreements are reached, the ruble may continue to be a common currency," he added.

Matyukhin recalled that it is Russia that suggested the creation of an interstate bank, but the idea was not supported. Mentioning Ukraine's intention to introduce its own currency, Matyukhin said: "We shall not accept karbovantsy, or grivnas, the same as we are not accepting now the Polish zloty or the Czechoslovak krona...there is no discrimination in it, we are just following economic laws."

Slower Pace of Reform Advocated

LD2404131692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Russian Central Bank Chairman Georgiy Matyukhin believes that the economic reforms in the country should be conducted more slowly than is being done by the current government. ITAR-TASS has reported that he made this statement in an interview with the American newspaper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

According to Matyukhin, agriculture must be reformed first with a view to creating the structure necessary for free trade. The country should then move over to destroying monopolies in industry. Matyukhin recently stated that the government and the Central Bank of Russia are trying to cooperate. Essential disagreements, however, do remain, especially in the field of credit.

Future Exchange Rate of Ruble Forecast

LD2304233192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—According to expert estimates of the Economic News Agency (ENA), the exchange rate of the ruble to the dollar is 147-148 rubles per U.S. dollar at Russian stock exchanges today. It may eventually stabilise at 149-150 rubles per dollar," the "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA" writes today.

The Central Bank of Russia (CBR), ENA experts believe, may be able to lower the exchange rate of the dollar to 138-140 rubles by the end of April or in the first half of May, but only if it meets the steadily growing demand by increasing the indivisible volumes of hard currency intervention to 10-15 million U.S. dollars. According to ENA estimates, at present this volume does not exceed 3-5 million dollars.

ENA experts assert that the ruble will be influenced by several basic factors in the second quarter of the year—by the easing of the "monetary noose, slipped by the Central Bank of Russia and the government around the neck of the Russian economy", which will find expression in substantial CBR credits to commercial banks (running into 200 billion rubles) and, naturally, will lead to the dropping of the ruble's exchange rate, growth of ruble spendings by enterprises, caused by the price hoist on oil and its derivatives, which may again reduce the volumes of free ruble resources that enterprises could sell on the monetary market, inevitable inflation rise in May-June (or in the period preceding the liberalisation of oil prices). A stabilising role could be played by credits and means of the international monetary fund, but "Western money" will come, it appears, not earlier than the end of the summer of 1992, and will not produce any telling impact on the dynamics of the ruble's exchange rate in the second quarter.

Demand for Interbank Credit, Deposits Rising

PM2704091792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Tolstov: "Rates Rising on Credit Market"]

[Text] The demand for interbank credit and deposits has increased significantly on the free money reserves market. At the same time average interest rates are on the way up, and average loan terms are getting shorter.

Over the last few days, according to "Reyting" Information Center data, for the first time ever there were virtually no interbank credit deals struck at auction sales of free money instruments, while a number of deals were concluded at rates of 80 percent or more per annum. The largest credit of 20 million rubles was lent at 87 percent for a three-month term.

Two persistent trends were noted: The decline of interbank credit share on the free market for loan capital and a narrowing of the gap between the deposit rate on offer and the interbank credit rate. In the opinion of experts from the "Reyting" Information Center, this is happening mainly as a result of the policy of the Central

Bank of Russia, which is carrying out targeted financing of agriculture and other strategically important sectors of the economy.

In addition, considerable sums of centralized money, which for a long time has been affecting the situation on the free market, have been diverted to implementing programs of large-scale compensation for the population that are being put into effect by the Russian Government. Many banks have consequently been deprived of their usual sources of cheap reserves and have been forced to turn to the free market, thereby boosting demand.

It is expected that these trends will remain unchanged in the near future, unless there are abrupt policy changes by the government and the Central Bank of Russia.

Average Interest Rates for Interbank Credit on the Free Market in Moscow between 1 April and 10 April 1992

Amount	Up to 1 month	Up to 3 months	Up to 6 months
1-5 million	50.0	64.8	70.0
6-20 million	60.5	73.2	—
21-100 million	62.5	76.8	—
over 100 million	—	—	—

[In the following table, column "A" shows "Seller's Average Rate"; column "B" shows "Buyer's Average Rate"; column "C" shows "Average Percentage Rate of Completed Deals"; and column "D" shows "Supply Ratio" (a footnote explains this as "Ratio of Number of Applications for Acquisition and Placement of Interbank Credit"]

Basic Indicators of the Free Market in Interbank Credit in Moscow in March-April 1992

	A	B	C	D
16-31 March	65.2 percent	61.0 percent	64.3 percent	50/1
1-12 April	69.6 percent	65.0 percent	68.2 percent	50/1

Defense Ministry Spokesman on Expenditures

LD2404114692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1714 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—Russia's expenditure for defense in the first quarter of 1992 was 55 percent of the budget's income part.

As PF [POSTFACTUM] was told by well informed sources in the general headquarters of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, this figure is twice as much as expenditure for national economy, and three times as much as the money which was allocated for the maintenance of the social sphere. Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Committee in Charge of Defense and Security, while commenting the present situation for PF, said that large expenses for defense are explained by the policy of rational defense sufficiency, according to which we had to maintain numerous groups of armed forces. According to Piskunov, at present this is more burdensome, as the number of tax-payers has reduced from 300 million down to 150 million, so that Russia just cannot afford possessing the 4-million-strong Army.

Conversion of the defense industry is, according to Piskunov, one of the most expenditure-related spheres. According to the data of the general headquarters of the CIS Unified Armed Forces, expenditure for armaments liquidation is equal at present to those for their production. This is accounted for by the fact that at the time when the USSR was engaged in arming itself, nobody thought of how to dispose of the arms later. Thus, e.g., 72 unloaded reactors from nuclear submarines are on the territory of Russia. Part of them are becoming rusty and destroyed within towns.

According to Piskunov, with these expenses for conversion and defense, one can put any government, but no reforms will go all the same. [sentence as received] He reckons that Russia should first of all determine its priorities in the military area. Military expenses probably will have to be shared with other CIS countries. But in this case, Russia will have to hand over also part of Armed Forces and armaments to the others, as percent of the defense budget was realized on its territory.

Army Formation Unlikely Before 9 May

LD2604130492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1804 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—Aleksandr Piskunov, secretary of the commission to form a Ministry of Defense, the Army and Fleet of the Russian Federation: Work to create the armed forces of the Russian Federation is unlikely to complete before May 9. Piskunov told PF [POSTFACTUM] on April 24 that what is real is to make an inventory of units to be put under Russia's jurisdiction, using registration documents. Piskunov said negotiations with the other Commonwealth member states has not yet gained the necessary momentum.

General Konstantin Kobets, who is responsible for this process, explains the difficulties that have emerged by the absence of a military doctrine, the basic document defining the state's military policy. Piskunov believes the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces also did not have a clear-cut military-political concept. As a result, instead of a single command of troops, there exist 11 defense ministries, the apparatus of the chief command of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces and seven commanders in chief who control five types of the armed forces, including strategic forces—11 states, general-purpose forces—four states and the Joint Armed Forces—seven states.

Communist Workers' Party Warned of Violations

OW2404163192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov has officially warned the leaders of the Russian Communist Workers' Party that their actions go beyond the limits of the goals and tasks specified in its rules, and violate the Russian laws.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Justice, on April 23 the Ministry senior officials qualified as anti-constitutional the appeal of this party's central bodies "to the armed defenders of Motherland", involving servicemen in the political struggle for power; the calls to hoist the state flag of the USSR above the Kremlin on November 7, 1992, as well as statements offending the Russian president's honor and dignity, and doubting the legitimacy of state power in the Russian Federation. All of these calls can be found in the "Programme of Urgent Actions" which was adopted by this party's plenary meeting and which raises, among other issues, "the question of the party's activity in the armed forces".

The Ministry of Justice's senior officials have also sent related materials to the Procurator's Office of the Russian Federation.

FIS Aide Cited on Colonel Konopolev Defection

MK2504091592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Andrey Poleshchuk report under "Special Services" rubric: "Russian Intelligence Does Not Intend To Sprinkle Ashes on Its Head. The Whole World Is Engaged in Industrial Espionage"]

[Text] Despite the considerable reduction in the central apparatus of the Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] and its foreign residencies, the intelligence system has no intention of curtailing its activities.

This firm position on the part of the FIS leadership cannot be shaken by the lamentable episode involving the 46-year-old intelligence colonel Vladimir Konopolev, who recently defected to the West, or by the clamor over him now being raised in that same West.

"According to our information," relates Yuriy Kobaladze, head of the FIS press service, "the Americans intend to use Konoplev as an instrument of political pressure on Russia by linking the problem of industrial espionage with the $24 billion financial aid being granted to us.

"They clearly want to legitimize him," Yuriy Kobaladze says. "Now he is beginning to travel around America delivering lectures about 'the nasty Russians stealing industrial secrets left and right.' And for this they must be punished."

In fact, according to FIS officials—whose words are corroborated by documentation (NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA is preparing detailed material based on this)—industrial espionage is carried out everywhere, and it is regarded as completely normal. In any event, colleagues from the West's special services are endeavoring not to let the matter develop into a political scandal accompanied by the expulson of people from one country or another if a spy from an allied camp [rodstvennyy lager] is caught red-handed.

"When Russia was communist, then it was possible to understand the malicious rejoicing of our opponents. But now—are we partners or not? Why throw out only our associates?" Yuriy Kobaladze asked with some bewilderment.

On the other hand, Russia itself represents an object of attraction for industrial espionage despite the profound economic crisis.

As far as the personality of Vladimir Konoplev is concerned, according to Yuriy Kobaladze the FIS is accumulating an increasing number of facts indicating that he is not a convinced enemy of the regime and the system but an extremely mercenary individual. The precise amount of his honorarium will scarcely ever be known, but the going price can be judged from the words of the same Yuriy Kobaladze:

"About seven years ago the British gave one of our defectors a one-off payment of 500,000 pounds sterling. Plus his own house, plus stable and highly lucrative employment..."

Congress of People's Deputies

Khasbulatov Sums Up Congress, Program

PM2404114492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 pp 1,2

[Interview with R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, by unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent; place and date not given: "Program 100-Percent Implemented"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] So, the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies, which the whole Russian people were impatiently awaiting, rightly pinning certain hopes on it, is over. It is time to sum up. ITAR-TASS observers asked Ruslan Khasbulatov, parliamentary speaker and Supreme Soviet chairman, for his opinion of the two-week marathon completed by people's deputies on the day that the Congress closed.

[ITAR-TASS] Undoubtedly, before the forum began the Supreme Soviet leadership had a "maximum program" and a "minimum program" that it planned to implement

during the Congress' work. In your view, which of these programs did it manage to implement during its 14 days' work?

[Khasbulatov] If you consider the program on the agenda proposed by the Supreme Soviet and ratified by the Congress it can be said to have been 100-percent implemented. Virtually no questions remained unexamined.

First, the draft of our Russian Constitution was by and large approved. I think that that does indeed represent a tremendous achievement for the Congress. Although there were clashes of various opinions and positions—and you witnessed that—there were also alternative drafts that caused deputies to have plenty of doubts. But from the very outset I realized that the draft proposed by the Constitutional Commission should be given support since it provides Russians with a democratic Fundamental Law governing the life of society in a truly democratic state. Both from the viewpoint of the balance of powers and from the viewpoint of comprehensively developing elements of representative democracy, an effective executive headed by a president, representative organs of power, an independent judiciary, and so on.

Is this really an outstanding victory? We say that the people are the source of truth, but in order for this slogan to be effective, a full-fledged mechanism must be set up to ensure that Russia's multiethnic population express their interests and their will via the whole hierarchy of representative organs of power. That is why I believe that the adoption of this draft is indeed an outstanding victory for democracy in Russia.

I think that the draft submitted by the Constitutional Commission deserves to be approved with consideration for the constitutional models in operation in all current democratic states, the Russian state's historical past, and our accumulated experience.

Second and no less important, the course of economic reform has been thoroughly examined. We did, after all, sound the alarm a long time ago, more than two months ago, back at the beginning of February when we saw the first results of reform. Then the parliament demanded fairly vigorously that the government make amendments.

One just cannot claim—as our opponents sometimes try to do—that the parliament, the government, or the president has won a victory...that is an overly superficial and primitive approach. I think that in our conditions congresses should not be held to find out a sports result—who will win. There is only one way in which you can speak of victory today—a victory for democracy or, if you like, for common sense. Both the government and the president were perfectly well aware that the parliament constitutes a real force. But it must also be a real force in a democratic state.

I also appreciate the fact that the idea of Russian unity was voiced piercingly at the Congress. Deputies' approval of the package of federation treaties binding legally fast the threads of the Russian Federation—its republics, krays, and oblasts—can be considered an outstanding victory. I don't know what the results of the forum would have been had we not managed to secure this consensus and eliminate both the vertical clashes—within the hierarchy of the Russian authorities—and horizontal clashes—between our Russian provinces [guberniya] and the republics.

It would in my view be no exaggeration to say that the Congress provided very major reinforcement for the positions of the state power. Although, on the other hand, analyzing its work, I think that some deputies still do not feel themselves to be parliamentarians of a vast, powerful, independent state. There were sometimes irresponsible statements and sometimes even blatant posing and buffoonery at the microphones and, needless to say, all this cannot evoke sympathy. People who elected these deputies may certainly take a simply negative view of all the Congress' work. Yet it did resolve—and this is the main thing—large-scale state problems. I stress, they were resolved. Take, for instance, the problems of the North. For the first time in 50 years the Congress scrupulously considered questions pertaining not merely to the life of the indigenous population, but also to the economy of that part of the Russian Federation that represents almost 66 percent of our territory with roughly 80 percent of our natural reserves, but where at the same time the population is impoverished. I am convinced that a correct and timely resolution was adopted on these problems in conjunction with the governments of the northern republics.

So, the results are, in my view, encouraging and so we are in cheerful mood. Admittedly, the first day's attempts to undermine the Supreme Soviet chairman's position over his supposed clashes with the president left a somewhat distressing impression. I want to underline once again that my criticism of the government and the prime minister came not from right-wing but from left-radical positions and was based on the idea that reform is proceeding far more slowly than it should be, that there are no underlying transformations, and the host of superficial changes is instantly turning a very large proportion of the population into impoverished people.

What do you want then? We parliamentarians must not raise our hands on command, as we did over the previous 70 years. Are we being asked to do this again? Is this neobolshevism? I don't know, I cannot help thinking that everything has shifted so much today: Left-wingers are becoming right-wingers and right-wingers are becoming left-wingers. I will only say that you would hardly find "rabid ultraconservatives or reactionaries," as they are tagged, among the soviet chairmen of all levels whom I have met of late. Today even the most conservative among them realize that there is no return to the past, that it is necessary to take the path of economic reform, but responsibility for people's future, for their city, and for the republic does not give them the right to watch apathetically as the people become impoverished. That's when their voice cracks...Therefore I

think that this problem of a struggle between those who would like to stop reform and progressive deputies at the Congress is an artificial one. In my view there is only a struggle between the course of reviving authoritarianism and that of democracy.

[ITAR-TASS] Deputies' critical statements and the documents adopted by deputies represent the base on which the Russian Supreme Soviet's future work program will evidently be formed. In your view, what problems are the parliament's top priority?

[Khasbulatov] Above all, lawmaking activity. A vast package of laws must be adopted. The transformation of the political system must be continued. Second, the parliament's supervisory function must be reinforced. It is important now for the Supreme Soviet to tighten up control of the budget, for instance. A great deal of new bureaucracy has already emerged in our country. Neither the executive nor other administrative authorities should be able to increase their staff and swell the ranks of the bureaucracy out of all proportion.

Of course, particular attention must be paid to the fight against corruption, which is eating away our bureaucracy. Regrettably, there are no real supervisory organs at work now. So it looks as though many bureaucratic structures and law-enforcement bodies have virtually become bound up with the criminal world. This can be seen from the example of Moscow. Deputies frequently raised the question of Moscow as the most corrupt area of Russia. The Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee is now formulating a draft law on fighting corruption.

Another area of the parliament's work is the problem of protecting our fellow citizens in the former Union republics. This subject came up on several occasions at the Congress. Of course, the parliament must show particular concern for the Armed Forces. Here too we are formulating a whole set of laws.

[ITAR-TASS] The Federation Treaty has been signed. The Congress incorporated it in the Russian Constitution. Are we now to think that there is no threat to the Federation's territorial integrity?

[Khasbulatov] Of course not. It is important to strengthen Russia's economic position and our ties with the CIS states. We have after all created a unique power grid [energeticheskaya svyaz] linking the former USSR republics and there are the railroads and the mighty defense and machine building complexes. They are all so interconnected that, were they to be split up, that would cause irreparable damage. So, isn't it better to develop and strengthen these ties? If we build the economic foundation of the Commonwealth together brick by brick, slowly, wisely, thoughtfully, deliberately, and openly, without any hidden designs, we will have success and a unified country, a unified Russia.

[ITAR-TASS] In your statement at the Congress during the discussion of the question of the CIS you voiced the idea that relations between the Commonwealth countries may gradually acquire a confederative nature. Won't this bring about the final break with such countries as Ukraine or Moldova? What ways do you see of resolving such acute questions as the Crimea and the Dniester region?

[Khasbulatov] In Alma-Ata we signed a whole series of agreements and set up the interparliamentary assembly of Commonwealth countries. Admittedly, Ukraine proposed its own option instead of this, which we also accepted—cooperation between parliaments' committees and commissions. That is, we will make use of both the interparliamentary assembly and links between committees and commissions. What is more, cooperation between party factions and various groups of deputies will be developed in order to make fuller use of all our parliamentary potential. Moreover, we will actively support our government which is engaged in fairly dynamic negotiating.

Needless to say, I think that if we see Moldova, say, seceding from the Commonwealth, we will certainly put questions relating to the Dniester region in a different plane. Just as we will consider in parliament questions concerning the inviolability of the CIS borders.

In conclusion I would like to tell the public of the CIS states and the Western community that Russian deputies advocate reforms: in Russia and the other former union republics. But deputies are also in favor of these reforms being implemented in a professional manner with consideration for the interests of the millions of people specifically concerned.

[ITAR-TASS] Thank you for the interview.

Future Procedures Viewed

PM2404152592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Apr 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report from the Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center under the rubric "In the Supreme Soviet Presidium": "The Government Can Count on the Support of Parliament"]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov is not satisfied with the results of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies that has come to an end. Opening a session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium that was held yesterday, he stated: "There are no vanquished or victors—the whole of society has suffered, a wound has been inflicted on the entire state power."

The head of the Russian parliament noted in particular "the extremely positive character" of the president's concluding speech at the close of the Congress. If the provisions contained in the president's speech are realized, the government can count on the "support and protection" of the parliament, he assured his audience.

Ruslan Khasbulatov expressed the opinion that preparations for the next Congress, the only issue at which

should be the adoption of a new constitution, should possibly begin right away, but before the fall, in his opinion, "the mood of society should be established" in order to decide whether to ratify the constitution at the Congress or at a referendum.

The draft laws that were submitted, namely "On Bankruptcy (Insolvency) of Enterprises," "On Defense," "On Psychiatric Help and Citizens' Rights When It Is Given," "On Amending Article 4 of the RSFSR Law 'On State Duty'," "On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Code of Labor Laws," "On Making Additions and Amendments to the Law 'On Operational Investigation Activity in the Russian Federation,' the Law 'On the RSFSR State Tax Service,' and the RSFSR Criminal Code and RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code," and "On Perpetuating the Memory of Those Who Died Defending the Motherland," have in accordance with parliamentary procedure been directed to the committees, commissions, and chambers of the Supreme Soviet for examination.

For the purposes of skilled interpretation and analysis of the activity of the Soviets of People's Deputies within the new state structure and in order to keep the electorate broadly informed of the work of the organs of the representative power, the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet has founded the magazine NARODNYY DEPUTAT.

The future procedure for the work of the Supreme Soviet has been discussed. People's deputies plan to hold meetings with voters in the districts prior to 12 May to discuss the results of the work of the Congress, and they will gather for a joint session of the chambers 14 May.

Filatov Reviews Congress, Economic Reform

LD2604082892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet and Russian people's deputy by Russian People's Deputy Rasul Mikailov; place and date not given; from the "Parliamentary Herald" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mikailov] It is only natural that adjustments will have to be made to the work of the Supreme Soviet after the congress. Seemingly, all this will probably be connected with the increased attention paid to the budget, and possibly laws connected with the economic reform. And to a large extent, the success of this work will probably depend on contacts between the Supreme Soviet and the government. Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin already dwelt on it in his report at the congress. In essence, all those who spoke at the congress talked about it. Sergey Aleksandrovich, are there any plans to make some adjustments to our joint work with the government?

[Filatov] Yes, we have been thinking about this. It is our weakest point as far as we, the government and presidential structures, are concerned. The weakest point is the point of cooperation between the deputies' corps and the government. And I said in my speech at the congress that in their work deputies are mostly unsatisfied with the fact that our connections with the government and with the president's administration are badly organized. That is why we and the government are concerned with improving and perfecting these connections and mechanisms. Here we have great hopes of doing it through the expansion of parliamentary hearings. So in other words, not just separate sessions of committees and commissions dedicated to individual matters, but wide parliamentary hearings dedicated to those fundamental issues which worry the public and society today. But it must be arranged in a way which will ensure that these parliamentary hearings are not closed ones as well. They should be open to the press and the public. With their participation we will try to hold more parliamentary hearings on a broader scale—and not just on budget issues. I know that a lot of materials are now being prepared for a parliamentary hearing on social issues concerning invalids and war participants. The committee is specially preparing this issue as well as a whole complex of other issues. I think that all of them should go through parliamentary hearings.

[Mikailov] You have been talking about hearings. Maybe the hearing is a form of discussing and preparing laws where contradictions of a purely political nature can be resolved—those which emerge when a law is put to the vote without a sufficient number of hearings.

[Filatov] Yes, there is a political factor here as well, but most importantly, a conceptual factor. At the moment our greatest difficulty is that we get two or even three conceptually opposed draft laws. And it is very important not to submit them to a Supreme Soviet session in their present state, but to sort them out at preliminary stages, at sessions of working groups, of committees and commissions, and most importantly, at these parliamentary hearings. Because parliamentary hearings should also involve the public, all social strata, and groups of experts who can help parliamentarians to understand the situation and to select this or that particular draft law for submission to the Supreme Soviet and for further work. In this respect we want to improve and reform to some extent our Supreme Economic Council. Here our task lies in ensuring that it does not comprise just specialists who are qualified economists but that all social strata are involved in the work of the Supreme Economic Council. So that it has workers' representatives, representatives of the world of entrepreneurs, stock brokers and trade unions of all levels, as it were, of all professions. In other words so that it solves a task at a conceptual level.

[Mikailov] So that it does not happen that the Supreme Economic Council is somewhat biased which might not allow an optimal decision to be adopted here.

[Filatov] Absolutely correct. We know in general that economists like to solve a number of problems in their own way. But due to the fact that we are dealing with the major economic reform today we should not allow any distortions here either from financial experts, so to speak—they also have their own line, so to speak, and their preference in carrying out the economic reform—or from representatives advocating social protection for the people. We should not veer towards them because in that case they will destroy our budget, correct? So, in other words, we need a balance, an equilibrium. And this equilibrium can be reached in this manner. That is why I think that at these point we will pay special attention to this part.

[Mikailov] The latest congress showed that, well, not always a decision which is due to be adopted...while adopting it people, our deputies, are not always guided by categories of rationalism, but to some extent, or maybe to a large extent, by purely political categories. There have always been a sufficient number of examples of this, and especially at the latest congress. Maybe the composition of the Supreme Soviet has changed a little bit. Maybe the Supreme Soviet has become more politically charged after this congress. Are there any plans for overcoming this political confrontation?

[Filatov] You know, our problem is that none of the factions or blocs within the Supreme Soviet or at the Congress of People's Deputies has a political majority. This is our tragedy to some extent. Because this causes not just unpredictable behavior by the deputies but also the unpredictability of decisions which are being adopted. This should not happen within a parliament. That is why there is no doubt that we should work on setting up some sort of majority coalition which can take the responsibility for political decisions both at the congress and at the Supreme Soviet. My understanding is that the congress is not going to take place this year. According to our estimates and our budget we have already spent all our money. So now we should expect the congress, so to speak, to take place next year. But very serious work awaits us at the Supreme Soviet in May and June, and then starting from September until the end of the year. So if we want to have predictability and not to set such dangerous precedents and unpredictable decisions we naturally have to gather a coalition of a political majority. You know a group which was conducting a very exact fight for power revealed itself at this congress for the first time, I think—they carried out an exact fight for power not just for the adoption of some sort of ideology, a certain ideology. And it is not accidental that we heard at a news conference, and it was noted in the press, that a very well defined group—I have read recently that it comprises Isakov, Goryacheva, I think, so to speak...

[Mikailov interrupts] Baburin, Astafyev...they said we will be able to stand for the government.

[Filatov] Not just that. They said we are prepared to take over the power today. Admittedly I do not understand why the words take power were used. Such words imply the use of force or something like that. What they really mean is that they are ready to accept power rather than take power, as they put it.

[Mikailov] Sergey Aleksandrovich, it is probably no accident that the words take power were used. Although our Constitution—the Constitution of the Russian Federation—has been 90 percent purged of such archaisms as the USSR, it retains certain references about which we should, perhaps, be concerned.

[Filatov] You have put it very well. Articles 4, 7, and ...

[Mikailov interrupts] 29.

[Filatov] I think 28, 29, these articles retain references to the USSR constitution and USSR laws. If you take a close look at these articles, you see that they define the activities of public organizations, political parties, and the armed forces in accordance with the USSR constitution and USSR laws. This is the direct route to a second power within Russia. The president warned about this in his final address to the congress. This is very dangerous. I regard it as no coincidence that the references were retained in precisely these articles whereas the words were surrendered without a struggle in all the other articles. If we remember our past a bit, we see that this poses the threat that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the CPSU, could be restored, that its activities could be revived. This threat is also associated with our armed forces. This is a very dangerous precedent. In this respect we all need to be very much on our guard.

[Mikailov] And this is against the background of calls for the return of the Crimea, calls to send our army into the Dniester Republic. It needs to be seen against the background of escalating interethnic conflicts. This makes it twice as dangerous.

[Filatov] Of course. Generally speaking I feel these questions need some very intensive reworking. After all, the congress does not have working organs for the revision of such decisions. It has no committees or commissions. But the Supreme Soviet does. Only the Supreme Soviet can do this, by calling in professionals, by very serious discussion of these questions, reworking of these questions. This is how a sensible political decision can be reached. Debate on these questions at the congress turns into a noisy rally. It whips up passion and emotion. Worst of all, it exploits nationalism and plays on Russian patriotism. You cannot imagine anything more terrible. It was no surprise that voting fluctuated so much when votes were taken on various issues, especially when these patriotic and emotional feelings were pitched in. Political decisions of this kind cannot be taken at congresses where the atmosphere is so heated. This could plunge society into war.

[Mikailov] Sergey Aleksandrovich, in my view, which may be subjective somewhere, yet another powerful political force became prominent at the congress, apart

from other things. It consists of heads of administrations and directors of large factories and enterprises, perhaps, who have already felt the taste of reforms, who earlier might belong to the communist camp but now they do not want to go back. What role, in your view, these people play in localities?

[Filatov] Yes, there are three groups, indeed: a group of deputies—more than 200 people—who work within executive structures today. Their influence could be clearly felt because they did not permit the introduction of a single amendment to the Constitution in order to strengthen the Supreme Soviet's control over the government's activity. This was clearly noticeable. There is, undoubtedly, a very large group of industrialists which is concerned over the state of affairs and the collapse which is taking place today, such as decline of production output. And the third group is made up of agro-industrialists who are very much interested in the state continuing massive injections in developing agriculture. There is a correct approach in principle here. The state must care very much about the development of agriculture. But we also saw another thing: a colossal opposition to reforms, especially in what regards private ownership of land and its selling and buying. And this issue was blocked again, although it had been put to a vote many times. This is, perhaps, the gravest consequences this congress can have because, after all, we had had serious hopes that this could have passed.

As regards the industrialists, they are in favor of reforms. This can be seen from everything but the dissatisfaction and perplexity which have overcome them today in the course of economic reform was absolutely obvious. And it was they precisely who determined the congress' situation vis-a-vis the government. At first, an absolutely appalling dissatisfaction and aggressiveness manifested itself but later, when they understood that they had no alternative and that corrections were needed—and they saw that the government understands this, too—they calmed down a bit. It was precisely them who made it possible to adopt the declaration of support for economic reforms. Incidentally, their meeting yesterday with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin confirmed their concern about economic reform and the desire to carry on with it, after all. This is the most important thing.

Poltoranin Assesses Congress 'Black Holes'

PM2404112692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Golubev: "Mikhail Polotoranin: Congress Useful in That It Helped Government To Discover 'Black Holes'"]

[Text] The Congress of Russian People's Deputies was successful in several respects at once, Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian vice premier and minister for press and information, said at a news conference entitled "The Alignment of Political Forces After the Congress." For instance, it proved possible to precisely determine the location of the "black holes" into which the reforms now being implemented may disappear. The vice premier named among these in particular the lack of system in implementing the transformations. Obviously, he stressed, amendments to financial and social policy are inevitable in the near future. Evidently relations will change between the Russian center and the regions. M. Poltoranin does not think that policy has been carried out correctly in this area either—the government has not succeeded in totally abandoning the methods used by former central structures. This, along with the occasional signs of ambition from local leaders, has in a number of cases given rise to a kind of economic separatism. The transfer of more rights to the localities, the vice premier thinks, should above all concern questions of privatization and financial and tax problems.

The Congress helped to clearly determine the alignment of forces today. In M. Poltoranin's opinion, this alignment is none too favorable for the democrats since the former partyocrats have reinforced their positions.

The minister, along with Yegor Yakovlev and Oleg Poptsov, who also took part in the news conference, devoted a great deal of attention to the subject of the mass media, which found themselves the focus of attention at the Congress. "A fourth branch of power really does exist," that is Mikhail Poltoranin's opinion, noting that many deputies have contributed to the formation of this branch of power, while the president has also played a tremendous role. At one time, the minister recalled, an attempt to set up an opposition newspaper would have met with a hostile reception from A. Lukyanov and other Union leaders. The Ministry of Press and Information in a year alone has registered 1,700 publications, including some clearly in opposition to the incumbent Russian leadership. "We have fought and will continue to do so to ensure that neither the president, nor the Supreme Soviet, nor our ministry can curb the press," the minister concluded. As for journalists' responsibility for their work, that must be regulated with the help of the third branch of power—the judiciary.

Resolution on Draft Constitution Published

PM2404105492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[Resolution No. 2697-1 of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies "On the Draft Russian Constitution and the Procedure for Further Work on It," signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 18 April 1992]

[Text] Having considered the draft Russian Constitution submitted by the Constitutional Commission and the Russian Supreme Soviet after further work in accordance with the resolution of the Fifth (Extraordinary) Congress of Russian People's Deputies of 2 November 1991, the Congress of Russian People's Deputies resolves:

1. To approve the overall concept for constitutional reforms in the Russian Federation on which the new Russian Constitution is based as well as the basic provisions of the draft approved by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

2. Chapters XVI and XVII of the Russian Constitution, entitled "The Federal Legislature" and "The President of the Russian Federation. The Federal Executive" respectively, are to undergo further work with consideration for the proposals and comments made by the Russian president.

3. The draft Russian Constitution is to be published for general study. The Supreme Soviets of republics within the Russian Federation and soviets of people's deputies in krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are to organize extensive discussion of this draft and study public opinion on its fundamental provisions.

4. The Russian Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Commission are instructed to complete further work on the draft Russian Constitution with consideration for proposals and comments made by the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the Russian Supreme Soviet, people's deputies of the Russian Federation, republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and citizens.

5. The Russian Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Commission are to submit the finalized draft Russian Constitution to the next Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 18 April 1992.

Resolution on Russia's Stance on CIS Issued

PM2404110492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[Resolution No. 2699-1 of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies "On the Political Position of the Russian Federation Within the CIS: State of and Prospects for Development," signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 20 April 1992]

[Text] The Congress of Russian People's Deputies notes that the CIS is a new legal and political form of voluntary association of sovereign states.

However, the integration achieved does not accord with the tasks above all of political, economic, and military cooperation between the CIS states and requires further development. Russia's foreign policy interests and the rights of Russians living in other states on the territory of what was the USSR are not being protected with due persistence or sufficient consistency.

The Congress of Russian People's Deputies resolves:

1. To deem the following the main areas of Russia's activity within the CIS:

to broaden the Commonwealth's treaty-legal base on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and noninterference in one another's internal affairs and to form a system of interparliamentary cooperation;

to safeguard the rights and freedoms of Russians resident in other states on the territory of what was the USSR as well as the rights and freedoms of these states' citizens resident on the territory of the Russian Federation;

to assist as much as possible in preserving the common economic area and developing economic ties between the CIS states;

to consistently implement the course of averting conflict situations within the CIS and settling contentious issues that arise by political means;

to ensure the unswerving observance of the Russian Federation's political, economic, and military-strategic interests.

2. The Russian Supreme Soviet and the Russian Government are instructed to continue the work with the Commonwealth states of strengthening and developing coordination institutions with a view to implementing coordinated economic, monetary, currency, and customs policy and standardizing [sblizheniye] legislation, in particular on socioeconomic issues and in the sphere of citizens' rights.

3. The creation of an Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS States is approved. The Russian Supreme Soviet is to ensure that Russian people's deputies take an effective part in its activity.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 20 April 1992.

Friendship Appeal Adopted

PM2404111892 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 92 p 1

[Appeal No. 2700-1 of the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies "To Citizens Resident on the Territory of the Former USSR," signed by the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 20 April 1992]

[Text] Striving to unswervingly safeguard human rights and the rights of the citizen and expressing the firm intention to develop international cooperation, the Congress of Russian People's Deputies solemnly proclaims the course of strengthening friendship among the peoples of the former Union republics.

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the CIS, which was set up by the will of the sovereign states, and expresses confidence that the Commonwealth will help enrich the material and spiritual potential of nations and ethnic groups.

The Russian Federation proceeds on the basis of the indisputable desire of the peoples to maintain lasting, friendly relations, preserve close human ties, and prevent discrimination against citizens of any state on ethnic or other grounds.

The Congress of Russian People's Deputies supports the immutability of general democratic constitutional principles and international norms on human rights and people's power. Russian people's deputies see this as a pledge of the Commonwealth peoples' united desire for cooperation and intimacy.

We are ready to perfect the CIS so that it becomes a new form of association of truly equal states for the sake of our people's prosperity and happiness.

[Signed] The Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 20 April 1992.

Supreme Soviet

Defense, Security Law Presented to Presidium

LD2404092792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A draft defense law was presented to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium on 23 April. It was presented by the parliamentary committee on defense and security. The draft law determines the legal basis for creating Russia's armed forces and the competence of the president, parliament, and government in the defense sphere. Inter alia, the document contains a clause stating that the size of Russia's armed forces during peacetime may not be more than one percent of the population of the Russian Federation. The activities of any parties, public organizations, or movements, and also the formation of their structures in the Russian Federation's armed forces, are not permitted.

Resolution Clarifies Local Government Law

PM2404132092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Apr 92 p 2

[Resolution No. 2648-1 of the Russian Supreme Soviet "On the Implementation of the Provisions of Articles 59 and 70 of the RSFSR Law 'On Local Self-Government in the RSFSR,'" signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and dated 2 April 1992]

[Text] With a view to implementing the provisons of Articles 59 and 70 of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Law "On Local Self-Government in the RSFSR," the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation resolves:

To stipulate that output placed at the disposal of the local administration in accordance with Point 3 of Article 59 and Point 3 of Article 70 of the RSFSR Law "On Local Self-Government in the RSFSR" is not liable to sales taxes and duties.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, Russian Supreme Soviet chairman.

Russian House of the Soviets, Moscow, 2 April 1992.

Regional Affairs

Dudayev on Alleged Plans To Kill Chechens

PM2704112592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Unattributed feature: "Once Again About an IZVESTIYA Article and Deputies' Denials"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA readers and television viewers will remember that the demands by R. Khasbulatov, speaker of the Russian parliament, for the newspaper to be "investigated" and have its status changed were prompted by the speech at the Congress by T. Batagov, deputy from North Ossetia and that republic's first deputy minister of internal affairs. The latter sharply criticized the article "Attempt Being Prepared on Life of Checheniya National Guard Commander" by A. Kazikhanov, IZVESTIYA's own correspondent for the North Caucasus (No. 85). Particularly that part of it dealing with the conference in Vladikavkaz which allegedly discussed the question of the physical removal of the commander of the Checheniya national guard.

A copy of a North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution received in the editorial office calls the article a "crude provocative fabrication" exacerbating relations between the Ossetian and Chechen peoples. Moreover, muddling up its powers, the Presidium demanded that the newspaper not only print a denial but also dismiss the author of the article.

IZVESTIYA No. 87 announced its intention to get to the bottom of the matter. As is known, the newspaper carried the information in question with a reference to official sources. Igor Andreyev, the newspaper's special correspondent, flew to Groznyy for a meeting with Dzhakhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic.

[Andreyev] Mr. President, can you officially confirm or deny the IZVESTIYA report of the conference in Vladikavkaz?

[Dudayev] I declare in all responsibility that such a meeting did take place in Vladikavkaz, and with precisely the agenda described by IZVESTIYA. Your correspondent (who was not very sympathetic toward us and previously had frequently sent hard-hitting materials about us to the newspaper) could have derived that information, apart from everything else, from my official

statement at the meeting with Checheniya administration heads. But nothing particularly new for us happened in Vladikavkaz. I possess many documents on similar conferences in Moscow and here, in the North Caucasus, devoted to the subject of the physical removal of Dudayev and his associates and also to the development of the confrontation in the republic by means of machinations with the Russian-speaking population. According to data that have been checked and rechecked many times, such a meeting with the participation of representatives of Russian power structures and the Georgian junta was held in Pyatigorsk 11-13 April. A great deal is known, even down to who arrived at the conference with whom and in which vehicles. But I do not have the right to reveal details, so as not to cast suspicion on informants.

[Andreyev] Was the information about the conference in Vladikavkaz also provided by an informant who had something to do with the meeting?

[Dudayev] Yes, this person attended the conference as an aide to one of the leaders.

[Andreyev] Do you know him personally. Have you met him?

[Dudayev] I do know him. I have met him. Although he is a representative of structures that are alien to us, we trust him. He has a vital interest in work for us—a vital interest. Of course, this does not rule out altogether rechecking his data against other sources...For it is important not just to possess reliable information but to take preventive measures and counteractions.

[Andreyev] Did the report on the Vladikavkaz conference reach you through the national security service?

[Dudayev] No. directly.

[Andreyev] Does it not strike you as strange that a conference with such an imposing makeup (it is maintained that a leader of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] participated in it) discussed the question of the physical removal of precisely the commander of the Checheniya national guard?

[Dudayev] I do not know what motivated them. Maybe the fact that precisely I. Arsnukayev, who adheres firmly to a position of reforms and does not demand rank, rewards, or office, as his associates do, headed the rebuff to the putschists, to those who tried recently to carry out an armed coup. But in Vladikavkaz they put a price of $1.5 million not only on his head. They promised a similar reward for another prominent politician of the republic—my associate.

But I repeat: There have also been plenty of reports of attempts being prepared on my life too. At the risk of revealing my sources of information, I will nonetheless speak of one such venture. Not so long ago they released three prisoners from a colony in Murmansk Oblast, promising them unlimited money and a heavenly life abroad. Their mission was to kill me. I will omit the details and say just one thing: That plan was thwarted.

As for Arsnukayev, he has long been a target. They have shot at him and his younger brother, set fire to their homes...So, I will repeat, we perceived nothing new or bizarre in the information from Vladikavkaz published by your newspaper.

Despite his initial consent to familiarize the editorial office with documents confirming the preparation of attempts on the life of the president of Checheniya and his supporters, Dzhakhar Dudayev declined to show written reports, explaining that this was because he could not reveal secret sources of information.

Unfortunately, all attempts by the editorial office to obtain official information from the Russian minister of internal affairs proved unsuccessful. Explanations were provided only by the MVD Public Relations Center. Here is its viewpoint.

"The conference in Vladikavkaz, conducted by Ye. Abramov, the Russian Federation's first deputy minister of internal affairs, summed up the results of the operation to free the hostages taken in Stavropol Kray. Those events were given quite wide coverage in the mass media. No representatives of either the Chechen opposition or the Georgian State Council attended that conference, nor could they have done so. As for Dzhakhar Dudayev's statements about preparations for his physical removal and about allegedly planned 'machinations with the Russian-speaking population,' in our opinion they do not need any comment."

Be that as it may, one thing is clear today: It is most logical for the interested sides to level complaints against each other. And to ascertain the details from each other. The newspaper undoubtedly has the right to publish any reports if they come from the lips of officials.

Dudayev Refuses Rank of Colonel-General

LD2404124392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0931 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Groznyy—On April 23, the parliament of the Chechen Republic issued a resolution to confer the rank of colonel-general on President Dzhakhar Dudayev, but the latter vetoed the resolution. The parliamentary resolution says that the rank has been conferred for the president's outstanding service to the republic. Dzhakhar Dudayev deemed the parliament's decision as groundless. Dudayev's military rank is major general.

Investigators 'Refuted' Mass Detention Reports

LD2504172592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1716 GMT 22 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 22 Apr—An investigative committee in the Chechen Republic considers that reports that 52 people from the opposition are being kept in an investigation remand center in Groznyy are "pure inventions". The opposition attempted to oust Dzhakhar Dudayev and his supporters by armed force at the end of March. An aide of the investigative committee's chairman spoke on local television network tonight. He said that only five people have been arrested in connection with this case and that only two militia officers were among those detained.

It turns out that the representative of the investigative committee refuted not only a recent report by ITAR-TASS, but to some extent a decree by the Chechen president that has been published by the local newspapers. The aide stated that the investigators did not have and could not have any lists of people involved in the coup d' etat. Whereas the president's decree instructs that these people be removed from their postions "in line with the list presented by the investigatory committee".

Tatarstan President Hails Power Transfer

OW2504005692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1904 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev said at a government meeting in Kazan that the key guideline of Tatarstan's policies was the signing a treaty with Russia on powers transfer.

He pointed out that time was necessary for rapprochement of the two republics' positions, and that "this path must be walked through without speeding up developments".

Tatarstan's president denied rumors that Russia waged economic was against Tatarstan. He said the reason for the rumors was cuts in war orders which affected the munitions factories and was the result of disarmament and changes in the military doctrine of the former USSR.

'Ittifak' Backers Hold 'Unsanctioned' Meeting

OW2504155492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the initiative of the Party of National Independence, Ittifak, about 200 supporters of Tatarstan's independence held an unsanctioned meeting in Kazan on Saturday [25 April]. The demonstrators protested against delegating powers to what they call Russian empire and against privatization in the absence of the law on citizenship, and demanded that talks with Russia be held on an equitable basis, that Tatarstan introduce its national currency and that the CIS troops withdraw from it.

They also urged to forbid neighboring Russia to interfere in the affairs of sovereign Tatarstan.

Deputy-chairperson of the millimeters [as received] Flyura Zainullina expressed protest against the establishment of Cossack organizations in Kazan and urged women to sign up to a women's battalion to defend Tatarstan's independence.

The resolution adopted at the meeting says that in accordance with the results of the referendum, Tatarstan, like the U.S., Britain, France, Japan and other states, was an independent country and a subject of international law. It also qualifies the Tatarstan leaders' statements on the need to delegate powers to Russia as treacherous. The participants in the meeting demanded the resignation of Tatarstan's parliament and the election of a new president capable of defending the republic's independence, and also the termination of the talks with "the Russian empire" until it recognizes Tatarstan's independence.

Sovereignty Leader Hints at Recalling President

OW2504020092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The "Sovereignty" committee leader, Milli-Majlis deputy chairman Amir Makhmutov said that the committee might launch a canvassing campaign to recall Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev. He said it would happen if Tatarstan's leadership acted against the popular will, referendum results, Declaration of National Sovereignty, and republican Constitution.

Amir Makhmutov described Shaymiyev's statements on a treaty with Russia on power transfer as "his personal opinion". He said that his people had voted for independence.

He pointed out that under the results of the referendum Tatarstan was as equal a subject of international law as England, France, etc.

Amir Makhmudov believes that it would be a mistake to hold any negotiations before Tatarstan is recognized by Russia, the UN and other states.

Omsk Association To Produce An-74 Aircraft

LD2504202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 19 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk, 19 Apr—The CIS countries alone require 1,500-2,000 of the An-74 cargo aircraft with their shortened take-off and landing which were designed several years ago by the Antonov Design Bureau. Preparations for the series production of An-74s have been begun by the Polet Aerospace Association in Omsk which now specializes in the production of space equipment.

The aircraft that is being taken into production within the conversion framework will replace a whole family of An-12, An-26, and An-24 aircraft which are going out of operation. The An-74 has already performed well in the course of its work in the Arctic and other harsh climatic zones.

"The Antonov Design Bureau has proposed several versions of the An-74," Aleksey Kudashov, deputy general director of the Polet Association, stated, "including a transport version with a load capacity of 10 tonnes, a passenger version for 60 people, a mixed version, and also special versions for ice surveillance, ship escort work, meteorological and geophysical research, and providing services for business people".

For the Omsk association production of the An-74 for which there is a stable high demand is practically the only way to save the enterprise from bankruptcy and preserve the highly skilled work force. Over half its space orders have now been lost, and at least 800 million rubles are required this year alone for the reconstruction and preparation of workshops.

Omsk aircraft builders are scheduled to assemble their first An-74 by the end of 1993.

Military Equipment Scrapped in the Far East

OW2704083892 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0950 GMT 22 Apr 92

[From Kray News]

[Text] The smelting of a large quantity of military equipment, which has arrived from disbanded units of the Far East Military District, has commenced at (?Vorotomykhstal). Obsolete tanks and armored transport vehicles, along with those which have served their time, will ensure that the Martens ovens are loaded at a time when there is a need to fulfill orders for agricultural machine building. With the reduction of Russia's defense potential, metallurgists are awaiting new shipments of written off equipment, particularly now when enterprises are experiencing a famine of scrap metal, which is the reason they are at half capacity.

International Affairs

Shaposhnikov Statement Termed 'Provocative'

OW2404165592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defence Minister has qualified as provocative Marshal Shaposhnikov's statement, made to the Italian newspaper Repubblica, to the effect that "Ukraine does not need a big fleet on the Black Sea and that it might put up with 20-25 per cent of the current Black Sea Fleet".

The press service said that the statement represented an attempt to impose the CIS Command's views on the governmental delegations of Ukraine and Russia which are to meet in Odessa soon to discuss the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

President Kravchuk on Official Visit to Iran

Views Relations With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2504133992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 25 Apr—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran on a two-day visit this afternoon. The president and members of the Ukrainian Government delegation were met at Tehran airport by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and other officials. The flags of the two states were hoisted on the square in front of the airport building and a honor guard was lined up. The orchestra of the Iranian Armed Forces played the Ukrainian and Iranian national anthems. After reviewing the honor guard, the presidents answered journalists' questions.

Independent Ukraine seeks to maintain good relations with all states, L. Kravchuk said, in particular. There is one peculiarity and positive element in our relations with Iran, he commented: The history of the two countries contains no pages that might darken them. The president expressed confidence that Iran and Ukraine will find fields where they can cooperate closely and that the present visit will help to establish friendly relations between the two states. A.A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction that the head of the Ukrainian state accepted his invitation to visit Iran, and he stressed that the Islamic Republic is ready to develop ties with Ukraine in all spheres.

The visit's agenda envisages talks between the two presidents behind closed doors and with additional participants. Leonid Kravchuk is accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister Konstantin Masik, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, and other officials.

Holds News Conference on Results

LD2604170792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 26 Apr—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran ended today. Before he left by air for Kiev, he and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran answered journalists' questions.

"The visit was businesslike, useful, timely, and very necessary," Kravchuk said. "We discussed all of the questions that we had planned to discuss and signed the relevant documents. They will be published in the press later. The documents lay the foundations for cooperation by our two states. During the visit, we managed to accurately assess the possibilities of development of bilateral relations, mainly in the economic field.

"During my talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani," the Ukrainian leader continued, "we also examined a number of political problems. Thus, taking into consideration the important geopolitical position of Ukraine in Europe and of Iran in the Near and Middle East, we assessed the opportunities for our influence on the political situation in these regions in the interests of peace and tranquillity."

Without listing the agreements signed in Tehran, Kravchuk pointed out that they were couched in a spirit of mutual respect and did not encroach on the interests of third countries. He also announced that he had invited the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pay a visit to Kiev at a time convenient to the latter.

For his part, Hashemi-Rafsanjani indicated that "in a very short time, the participants in the talks managed to achieve much." "We realized the great potential that lies in the development of relations with Ukraine and that our cooperation could embrace many fields. Iran sees a reliable partner in Ukraine," the Iranian president noted. He also said that as a result of the talks five documents had been signed "concerning political, economic, commercial, cultural, and technical links between our two countries." Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction at the results of his meetings with the Ukrainian president and added that during his coming visit to Kiev the Iranian side would be able to get to more closely know the possibilities of Ukraine as a partner.

Answering the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question as to whether questions of military cooperation were broached at the talks, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: "Yes, we had talks on that subject, and they will be continued." Kravchuk said that "talks have been started, but as yet only in general terms."

After the brief news conference, the solemn ceremony of saying farewell to the Ukrainian president took place. Kravchuk and the members of his delegation left by air for Kiev.

Kravchuk Issues Order on Moldovan Border Talks

LD2504152492 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1120 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Kiev 23 Apr (UKRINFORM)—Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, has issued an order on the beginning of talks between the Ukrainian delegation and representatives of the Republic of Moldova on procedures of the Ukrainian and Moldovan state border. The make up of the delegation has been determined and will be headed by Colonel General Valeryy Hubenko, commander of the border guards of Ukraine. According to the order, an acceptable basis for the discussions and for drafting a corresponding bilateral document is the draft agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova on the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border procedures.

Addition.

Members of the delegation:

Petr Sardachuk—head of the Consular Administration of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Aleksandr Voytsekhovskiy—head of the Administration for the Defense of Public Order of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Aleksandr Kupchishin—head of the Treaty and Legal Section of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Eduard Miroshnichenko—first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Customs Committee.

Kravchuk Cited on U.S. Aid, Upcoming Visit

OW2404195492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his Thursday [23 April] meeting with a prominent American surgeon, religious and public figure Robert White, President Leonid Kravchuk said: "The meeting with the US president in May will allow Ukraine to sign an agreement on economy, science and technology with America." He described the coming visit as very important because the United States is now formulating its special policy in Ukraine.

An American correspondent accompanying Mr. White asked the president how he hopes to persuade Americans to give financial assistance to Ukraine. Leonid Kravchuk remarked that this will not be a one-way street. According to his knowledge, the USA is now working on a program of such assistance. He went on to say that Ukraine has its own strategy of using the assistance. Firstly, it is not a question of begging for loans or food supplies. All that disappears without a trace. Ukraine is more interested in US support in advanced technology. Secondly, the president said, America must realize that such assistance will promote the strengthening of an independent law-governed state that should become an important factor of stability in Europe. Thirdly, Ukraine will never forget the contribution of the USA to the formation of its civic society.

Mr. White conveyed the best wishes to the president from the people of Ohio and the strong Ukrainian community there. He asked Mr. Kravchuk about the details of the assistance the USA could give to Ukraine in health protection and medicine. The president thanked the guest for the sympathy and said assistance is mostly necessary in clearing the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

President Kravchuk Appoints Ambassador to U.S.

OW2404233692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian president has appointed Oleg Belorus Ambassador of Ukraine to the U.S.A. The new ambassador was born in 1939, he is a Ukrainian by nationality, has a higher education and a degree of Doctor of Economics. He is a corresponding member of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Before this appointment Oleg Belorus was the director of the Ukrainian World Economy and Foreign Affairs Institute in Kiev.

He is married and has a son and a daughter. Shortly, Oleg Belorus is to enter upon his duties in Washington.

President Kravchuk Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD2504141892 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Moscow, April 25, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Kiev, Ukraine, Behzad Mazaheri, submitted his credentials to President Leonid Kravchuk in the Ukrainian capital Saturday [25 April].

Kravchuk who is scheduled to visit Tehran this week to discuss promotion of bilateral cooperation with the senior Iranian officials, expressed hope that Tehran-Kiev friendly relations be further broadened in future.

National Affairs

Supreme Soviet Commission Discusses Constitution

LD2604093792 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1546 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 24 Apr—A regular session of the Constitutional Commission of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, chaired by the president, on elaborating a new Ukrainian Constitution took place. Such sections as rights and freedoms of citizens, civil society, territorial structure, and others were most sharply debated. Commission members agreed that there should be single citizenship in Ukraine and the legislative power should belong to the National Assembly of Ukraine. The National Assembly itself will consist of two chambers: the Soviet of Deputies and Soviet of Ambassadors [Soveta Poslov]. It will be elected for a period of four years. In the draft which was being discussed, directly reflected were points about the complete authority of the people, fundamental human rights, the democratic nature of the Ukrainian state accepting the rule of law, the form of state government of Ukraine—a presidential republic, the form of state system—a unitary state, the supremacy of law and constitution, and others.

Parliament Disagrees on Social Guarantees

LD2604092792 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] At the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session on 23 April, the deputies discussed, in particular, the issue of increasing social guarantees for the population and regulating the labor payment fund. Propositions of the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the minimum salary on the scale of 650 rubles and the minimum pension on the scale of 550 rubles as well as ideas on regulating the labor payment fund did not find support among people's deputies and were sent for finalizing.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Budget

LD2504214292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] After a break of 10 days the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet began discussion of the draft state budget for this year which had been waiting already for several months.

But even prior to this Vadim (?Getman), the president of the republic's National Bank, gave some very dismal news about Ukraine's financial situation which is worsening sharply.

The republic's draft state budget was presented by Grigoriy Pyatchenko, the republic's finance minister. It shows a deficit of 17 billion rubles. It is envisaged that over half of the revenue will come from the 28 percent value added tax. And it is precisely this percentage which is being rejected by many deputies as virtually putting a stop to development of production.

What confuses deputies also is the fact that whereas expenditures have been defined precisely, revenue is very indefinite inasmuch as already from the start of this year considerably less revenue than planned has been coming in.

Expenditures on the Armed Forces are also provoking serious objections. They considerably exceed all expenditures on education, public health, and culture.

Many deputies believe that the expenditures planned in the budget on eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster are insufficient. Representatives of the population of the provinces which suffered form the disaster were today picketing the Supreme Soviet with demands to increase these expenditures.

Interior, Escort Guard Troops Law Issued

LD2604090792 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Ukrainian 1104 GMT 17 Apr 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 17 Apr—With the objective of strengthening law and order, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet put into effect the law on the troops of the interior and escort guard which are designed for guarding important state objects; establishments of corrective and healing labor; escorting, guarding, chasing, and arresting persons who have been arrested and sentenced but escaped the guard; and helping the militia in protecting public order. The law bans using the troops of the interior and escort guard for performing tasks not envisaged by this act. The activities of these troops are based on the principles of law and humanity and respect for an individual, his or her rights, and freedoms. The legal basis of the activities of the troops of the interior and escort guard is made up by the Ukrainian Constitution, this law, the resolutions of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and other legislative acts of Ukraine, decrees of the Ukrainian president, resolutions of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, and the military statutes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The law decrees that the troops, until the total transfer to manning on contractual basis, be manned both by way of contracts and by drafting. The contract is concluded for the period of three years and can be extended for the same period of time. The servicemen of the troops of the interior and escort guard take the military oath and have the military rank, insignia, and uniform of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The new law bans activity of any political parties and movements in the troops of the interior and escort guard as well as membership in them by officers and extended service men and employees of these troops. The state provides social and legal guarantees to the servicemen of the troops and members of their families in accordance with the law of Ukraine on social and legal protection of servicemen and members of their families and the law of Ukraine on pension provision to servicemen and employees of the bodies of interior affairs.

Ministers Confirm Economic Reform Program

LD2504214892 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has confirmed the Program of Economic Reforms and Policy of

Ukraine for its presentation to the International Monetary Fund. The definition of the main directions of the economic policy of Ukraine is based on the principles of democracy, freedom of enterprise, and openness for integration into the world economic community, says the text of the program.

The government of Ukraine plans to implement this year a complex of measures in order to deepen reform and to create real guarantees for the irreversibility of a change to the market economy.

Cabinet Warns of Industry Problems Over Wages

LD2604192492 Kiev UKRINFORM Diplomatic Information Service in Russian 1711 GMT 22 Apr 92

["Appeal of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine]

[Text] Regulating the dynamics of the wages funds (consumption funds) depending on the increase in production volume and prices on the consumer market is today the only way to exercise economic influence over stopping the increase in costs at the enterprises owned by the state. This was stated by Prime Minister Vitold Fokin when he presented an the appeal by the Cabinet of Ministers to parliament. However, in order to implement the mechanism of such regulations it is necessary to introduce certain amendments to the current Ukrainian legislation.

The appeal by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers notes that rapid inflationary increases in prices, unadjusted mechanisms of limiting monopolistic activities, the uncontrolled mutual crediting of enterprises, and in some cases the groundlessness of bank credit, have led to an economically unjustified and one-sided increase in wages at enterprises in certain Ukraine branches and regions. There are cases where the wages of workers have gone up [passage indistinct] and more thousands of rubles, while the vast majority of employees earn much less. The worrying fact is that separate cases have recently turned into a steady tendency.

Such increases in wages are not backed by results in economic activity. On the contrary what takes place is a fall in production volumes and in the revenues of enterprises. The consequence of this is an artificial increase in costs and prices in all branches of the economy, a drop in the purchasing ability of the population, loss-making in production in the branches which consume industrial produce, primarily in the agrarian complex, noncompetitiveness of Ukrainian goods on the external market, and a general fall in trade volumes.

There is a threat of stoppage of not only agricultural enterprises but also enterprises in the constructon and aviaton industry, metallurgy, power engineering, auto and electric transport, in particular communal transport, a number of branches of heavy industry, consumer services, public catering, and trade. A paradoxical situation has developed whereby finished goods are not sold but the shops are empty. The established ties which have been created over decades are being severed.

At the same time the paying ability of enterprises is being sharply limited, and a payment crisis in the economy is becoming deeper. Another consequence of artificial and economically unjustified processes in the dynamics of spendings on wages is the increase in social confrontation between employees of the non- production sphere, the agrarian complex, services sphere, pensioners, and other unprotected strata of the population and members of work collectives of the branches which hold a monopolistic position and are in a position to dictate prices and condition high costs to the consumers for their produce. This could lead to a further destabilization in society and likely social explosions.

The government, states the appeal, is working out measures for effective control over the pricing of produce from the monopolist enterprises, to introduce a mechanism of implementing anti-monopolistic legislation, to carry out a policy of demonopolizing the production sphere, circulation [as received] of produce, and management. The government is also addressing the power engineering workers, miners, metallurgists, and employees of other branches, where wages have increased at an especially high speed, to meet with considerable understanding those measures which will be taken regarding the regulating of money income.

The Ukraine Cabinet of Ministers also addresses the workers in agriculture, education, science, and health protection, with an appeal to abstain in this difficult period for the state from destructive actions and give the government the opportunity to change the situation of paying employees for their work for the better.

Editorial Criticizes Work of Ministries

AU2704081492 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 16, Apr 92 p 1

[Editorial: "What Should Ministries Do?"]

[Text] At the 13 April meeting of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, this question sounded somewhat differently: "On the Situation and Structure of Ukraine's Ministries." However, the essence of its discussion reduced precisely to this: What should Ukraine's ministries do, and what should they be like in the conditions of the transition to market relations? The agenda included reports from eight ministers. However, the "plan" could only be fulfilled by half: Draft regulations for ministries and their structure were submitted by V.T. Lanovyy (Ministry of the Economy), A.K. Minchenko (Ministry of State Resources), V.D. Hladush (Ministry of Industry), and V.Z. Borysovskyy (Ministry of Investments and Construction).

The discussion of the drafts showed that their shortcomings and omissions are generally similar (duplication of functions of other ministries, relapses of the administrative command system of management, the vagueness of

some formulations, and insufficient justification of the numerical strength of the apparatus). At the proposal by Ukraine's prime minister V.P. Fokin, it was decided to return the drafts for further elaboration. The leaders of other ministries were recommended to take into account the shortcomings that had been revealed in the course of the elaboration of their own documents. The discussion revealed yet another circumstance: It is quite difficult for all of us to learn the alphabet of the market, even at the level of formulating laws and normative documents, not to mention their practical implementation.

Crimean Tatars To Boycott Referendum

AU2404151192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Crimean Tatars have received the appeal by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to people's deputies, political forces, and the population of the Republic of Crimea with satisfaction. This was pointed out in an interview to HOLOS UKRAYINY by Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatars Majlis.

Speaking about the preparation for holding the referendum on Crimean independence, one of the political leaders of the Crimean Tatars pointed out that it is a dead-end road. He stated that all movements of the Crimean Tatars are unanimous in their decision to boycott the staged [nadumanyy] referendum. I am sure that not a single Crimean Tatar will take part in it, affirmed Refat Chubarov.

Lvov Official Demands Generals Be Sacked

AU2404150992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Stepan Davymuka, representative of Ukraine's president in Lvov Oblast, raised a question before Valeriy Stepanov, commander of the Ciscarpathian Military District, on the need to remove Generals Duryshev, Ivannykov, Chornobykov, and Volhushev from their posts at the district headquarters. According to Davymuka, by their actions, they are persistently hampering the democratic processes in the Armed Forces of independent Ukraine.

The president's representative agreed to become a member of the district's military council in order to promote an effective resolution of questions that are associated with building Ukraine's national army.

'Nova Ukraina' Political Organization Registered

LD2604145292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Today the new social political organization 'Nova Ukraina', New Ukraine, was registered at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. The new formation, which emerged earlier this year, incorporated representatives of a number of centrist parties of Ukraine—the Party of Democratic Revival of Ukraine, the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, businessmen, trade union activists and a number of non-affiliated members of Ukraine's Parliament. The main objective of Nova Ukraina is to promote economic reforms, improve the well-being of the citizens of the republic, build a legal state and a civic society in Ukraine.

Byelarus

Kebich Arrives in Poland, Signs Treaty

LD2404135292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 23 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Volkov, Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Warsaw, April 23 ITAR-TASS—Official negotiations between Chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers Jan Olszewski and head of the Byelarusian government Vyacheslav Kebich opened here on Thursday [23 April].

Kebich arrived in Poland for a two-day official visit.

The development of goodneighbourly relations between the two countries in the political and economic areas on a basis of effective mutually-advantageous cooperation was discussed during the negotiations.

The negotiations between Polish Foreign Minister Kzrysztof Skubiszewski and his Byelarusian counterpart Pyotr Kravchenko were devoted to all-round development of Polish-Byelarusian cooperation.

The deputy foreign ministers of the two countries initialled the treaty of goodneighbourliness and friendly cooperation between Byelarus and Poland at the Polish Foreign Ministry on Thursday.

The initialled treaty is of fundamental importance for it creates a broad framework for the development of relations between the two countries and sets definite standards of relations accepted in Europe, Skubiszewski said. The document defines the principles of cooperation in the area of security, political dialogue and common economic interaction. It confirmes the existing frontiers and obligations of the sides to cooperate in various areas in which, specifically, environmental protection is of particular importance.

Meets With Walesa

LD2404203492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valentin Volkov and Vladas Burbulis]

[Excerpt] Warsaw, 24 Apr—Today, Polish President Lech Walesa received Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Byelarus Council of Ministers, who is here on an official visit. During the talks the sides noted the particular importance of further developing good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

As Andrzej Drzycimski, the president's press spokesman, told journalists after the meeting, a broad range of issues was discussed, in particular the building of a new system of security, the expansion of trade, and the opening up of borders. During the conversation it was noted that both Poland and Byelarus are striving to become a bridge between East and West. The durability of this bridge will depend on the strength and reliability of its two pillars. Both sides expressed the conviction that the pillars would be strong.

L. Walesa stressed how important it was, during the process of rapprochement and opening up of borders which has now begun, for there to be full awareness of the need to make rapid adjustments to programs and decisions, to meet each other halfway and to be prepared to face new and, sometimes, unexpected situations. This necessity will persist for as long as different levels of development remain, though such differences need to be ironed out, he said.

Security and the armed forces also occupied an important place at the meeting. V. Kebich noted that the doctrine of the army now being created in his country would be a defensive one. It would not be directed against anyone. He stressed that Byelarus aimed to get rid of the nuclear weapons on its territory as quickly as possible. He noted, however, that there were some purely technical difficulties, connected with the scrapping of these weapons, which were hampering efforts to eliminate them as rapidly as possible.

The president of Poland set out his views on the development of the situation in central and eastern Europe. He drew attention to the great difficulties and problems inherent in a transitional period, ones which are having to be resolved for the first time, at a time when there are no ready-made solutions to fall back on. Both leaders stressed that it was no good relying merely on the West. We have to rely on ourselves, to think of ways in which we can help ourselves. If we help ourselves, the West will also help us, rather than the other way round, they noted. [passage omitted]

Sums Up Visit

LD2504141592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Video report by Ulyanov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Never before have Warsaw inhabitants witnessed so many flags of a state they did not know. As was made clear at all levels, Poland has cordially received Byelarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Summing up the results of his official visit, he noted that both sides want to form a joint bridge between East and West, and that the joint documents, including on the foundation of border cooperation and on the setting up of the Byelarus-Polish commercial bank and others will now create a basis for economic contacts both between the two countries and between the countries of the CIS. When I asked Kebich in my capacity as an Ostankino studio correspondent whether improvement in relations between Byelarus and Poland may be damaging to relations, he said:

[Begin Kebich recording] Byelarussian and Russian people have always been friends. Therefore, I would like

to take the opportunity that your question has given me to say that our relations are not just good-neighborly but friendly. As to the role of the Ostankino studio, I would like to add that when the question of transmitting Ostankino studio television programs on the territory of CIS countries was raised, the Republic of Byelarus was the first to pledge to fund the studio's work. For we believe that if this studio stops broadcasting to the Commonwealth countries, our access to information will be poorer. [end recording]

Further on Visit

WA2404170092

For Polish reportage on the visit to Poland of a delegation headed by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, including meetings with officials and the initialling of a treaty of friendship and cooperation, please see the 24 April East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent editions.

New Defense Minister Views Military Policy

LD2604224192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Report by Byelarusian Radio correspondent Anatoliy Ovcherenko on 23 April session of Byelarusian Supreme soviet in Minsk, including "small excerpt" of speech by Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy, new Byelarusian defense minister, at Supreme Soviet session; from the "New Wave" program presented by Kim Kukholev—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kukholev] The session of the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet continued its work in Minsk today. Of course, the interest and attention which it is receiving from the public is heightened, for the Supreme Soviet is considering a whole series of matters of vital importance to the republic, including, as far as I am aware, the military issue. I am now speaking to my colleague from Belarussian Radio, Anatoliy Ovcherenko, who ought now to be in contact with us. Can you hear us?

[Ovcherenko] Yes, Kim, I can hear you clearly. Good evening. [passage omitted] A minister of defense has been appointed in the Republic of Byelarus. He is Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy, age 50. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the Council of Ministers, who presented the minister of defense at the session, explained that he chose this candidate because he is an experienced high-class specialist, and a capable leader, who thinks deeply about his decisions. At the same time, he listens to the opinions of others. This is how the minister of defense was described, but naturally before they made their choice, the people's deputies were interested in what the candidate's views on the sovereign state's military policy are. Of course, the general spoke at the session for about 20 minutes. I shall now give "New Wave" listeners just a small excerpt from his speech to the Supreme Soviet session:

[Kozlovskiy] The nucleus of the republic's armed forces must be a high-class professional. It is thought that the creation of a grouping of ground forces with a total strength of around 40,000 best meets the military-political conditions which are developing, and our own economic capabilities. The troops of the [Byelarusian Military] District are being taken as the basis of the establishment of a grouping of ground forces. But the existing old structures, with powerful tanks and components, are no longer appropriate for dynamic military operations and local conflicts. Therefore, an important role in the structure of our armed forces will be taken by combat-ready units, including assault landing units, capable of operating in any direction from which a threat to the republic's security emanates.

For the Air Force, it is considered possible to have a multi-purpose aviation group capable of carrying out the basic tasks of covering the most important installations, providing air support for the troops, and transferring troops and cargoes by air.

As for the Air Defense Forces, there is no doubt that they must comprise a unified system providing reliable cover for the airspace of the sovereign Republic of Belarus and its important administrative, political, and industrial centers and [word indistinct]. The total strength of the Air Force and the Air Defense Forces might be around 30-32,000 men.

Overall, it is planned that the republic's armed forces will be 40 percent smaller—I stress, smaller—than the existing group. They will number about 90,000 men, including up to 22,000 officers. It is intended to treat the strategic forces on the republic's territory as a separate group of troops totalling 35,000 to 40,000 men. We are compelled to agree to their presence on our territory and to undertake certain obligations. They are set out in the agreements on the status of the strategic forces.

A separate section, the strategic position of Byelarus, must be subjected to deep analysis. Most important international communications run through and over Byelarus, and we must assume that the European Community is interested in the maintenance of stability in our region. So far, this factor has not been borne in mind and exploited sufficiently; this also applies to the way that we tackle our defense tasks. While avoiding the slightest trace of nuclear blackmail, diktat, or ultimatums in its dialogue with the West, Byelarus is entitled to expect compensation for its voluntary renunciation of the status of a nuclear state. In return for guarantees of military-strategic stability, the West can offer much, and we must not be afraid of a sensible, civilized, political deal. We must be bolder in our dialogue on military matters with our immediate neighbors. There must be no vacuum here.

[Ovcherenko] I would like to add to this speech by the minister of defense that the upkeep—just the upkeep—

of these 90,000-strong Byelarusian armed forces will cost 12 billion rubles; and if you add purchases of equipment and weaponry and everything else, it will probably reach 17 billion rubles. This is what was said at the session. Of course, this is a very great test, a very great burden, for the republic's budget. Various ways of avoiding this high expenditure were proposed. We should probably not talk about them now.

However, to supplement this topic about which I am now telling listeners to "New Wave", I should like to say that the third meeting of military experts from the Republic of Byelarus and the Russian Federation ended in Minsk yesterday. The sides have at last agreed on which units, hardware, and weapons will stay within the republic's armed forces, and which will go to the strategic forces of the CIS.

[Kukholev] What is going to stay? That is what I would like to know.

[Ovcherenko] I was unable to find out any details from the experts. The specialists told me that the carveup was very difficult, but common sense and trust prevailed, all the same. [passage omitted]

Delegation Realizes Credits, Investment Offers

OW2404192592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] To win credits from the Italian government was the main aim of the visit of a government delegation led by Prime-Minister Vyacheslav Kebich to Rome. According to sources close to the head of government, the results of the visit exceeded all expectations.

A memorandum was signed in Rome on a direct government credit of 100 bn [billion] liras (over $86 mn). The cabinet intends to invest all the money in farming-related industries.

60% will be spent on the construction of plants making baby food and 40% on plants making packaging materials for farm produce.

Investments will begin immediately and the credit is expected to be used fully this year. During the visit the prime-minister held numerous meetings with Italian businessmen. Below are the most impressive agreements signed.

The financial and industrial group IRI uniting over 500 companies suggested reconstructing Byelarussian thermal power stations with the purpose of introducing new technologies and increasing their capacity. IRI is very interested in the formation of free economic zones in Belarus. In the near future IRI leaders are planning to visit Byelarus.

Svevant company is ready to invest up to 200 bn liras in food processing technologies and food. The credit is given at advantageous terms: the food part for 23 months and the technology and equipment credit for five years at 5% interest. It was also agreed that Svevant would help Byelarus build pharmaceutical facilities and medical equipment plants. The prime-minister agreed with the world-famous Firuzzi concern that it would help solve the problem of sugar and starch supplies. The company is ready to lease land in Byelarus and cultivate it using its own seeds. The Italian side guarantees the doubling of sugar beet yields. Vyacheslav Kebich suggested to the leadership of Firuzzi that only samples of farm machinery should be supplied to Byelarus so that his country could begin the production of such machinery for itself and other CIS members.

Negotiations with other firms, for example, the world famous clothing and sportswear manufacturer Simod, were also fruitful.

The aides of the prime-minister are convinced that the audience of Pope John Paul II largely promoted contacts with Italy. The pope had a private meeting with Vyacheslav Kebich for 40 minutes after which he received the other members of the delegation. According to the Italian press, local politicians were astonished by this unprecedented gesture. Sources close to the head of the Byelarussian government believe that the interest shown by the pope in Vyacheslav Kebich probably prompted many business offers from scores of Italian firms, especially in Rome and Milan.

Independent experts account the length of the audience in the Vatican to the interest of John Paul II in the consolidation of Polish-Byelarusian ties and the strengthening of the influence of the Catholic church in Byelarus.

Government Proposes 'Radically' New Economic Plan

OW2504000992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus intends to create a radically new economic complex guaranteeing the republic's full economic and political sovereignty. According to sources close to the head of the Byelarusian Government, the provisions of the Byelarusian Government's programme for overcoming the economic crisis were formulated at the recent meeting of the cabinet's presidium.

The government has concentrated on economic restructuring with special emphasis laid on the branches which may bring immediate income agriculture, food industry, the production of consumer goods and which do not require too much spending and materials.

With this end in view the government intends to remove all obstacles hampering direct commercial contacts between Byelarusian manufacturers and their foreign

partners, lift all limitations from foreign investment, create private enterprises and joint ventures, and form up a Byelarusian fund of barter deals and commerce at the state order's expense.

A land bank is expected to be set up to provide Byelarusian farmers with loans, and permission has been given to lease out land to foreign companies for prospecting, mining and processing minerals.

Parliament Approves Law on Housing Privatization

LD2404225892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Minsk—The Byelarusian parliament has adopted a decision on putting into effect a law on the privatization of the republic's housing stock from 1 July 1992. The government has been tasked with working out a national program by that date in order to satisfy the housing requirements of the republic's citizens and with determining the procedure for granting them long-term credits on preferential terms to acquire their own house or apartment, for the construction of separate housing.

Moldova

End to Combat Operations in Dniester Ordered

OW2404164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan Minister of the Interior Konstantin Antoch has ordered all of the Moldovan police units to end combat operations in the Dniester region beginning 20:00, April 24. According to this order, the police may fire only in return to direct attacks of the Dniester armed formations.

All instances of fire shall be registered by the police commanders.

Meanwhile, the quadripartite commission, set up to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Chisinau conference of the Moldovan, Russian, Romanian and Ukrainian foreign ministers on peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict, continues its work in Chisinau.

It discussed the possibility of sending the four states' military observers to the zone of confrontation between the armed formations of Moldova and the Dniester region.

Dniester Deputies Urged To Return to Parliament

LD2404161692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Konstantin Oborok, deputy prime minister of Moldova, has called on deputies from the Dniester region to return to parliament. In his opinion this is the only place for tackling the contested issues. The deputy prime minister reported that two-party conciliation commissions on the withdrawal and disarmament of the armed formations involved in the conflict are being set up in the conflict area of the Dniester region. He noted that the sides are satisfied with the process of settling the situation in Bendery and that a decision has been made to establish peace in other hot spots of the region in a similar way, with the aid of observers.

Bendery Guards Demand Troops Leave Dniester

LD2504123992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Novost" newscast]

[Text] In the Dniester region, members of the joint commissions for implementing decisions adopted by the conference of foreign ministers of Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, and Romania are discussing prospects for deploying military observers in the region. In the framework of the agreement on the extended cease-fire, the Moldovan interior minister ordered the end to all police actions on the region's territory. However, the Dniester republic press agency reports today that the commander of the Dniester republican army in Bendery said the guards are opposed to the decision on joint patrolling with the Moldovan police and demand that all Moldovan Government subdivisions should be withdrawn from the city and fortifications should be restored on the border of Moldova and the Dniester Republic. If this does not happen, the republican guards units will cease to be subordinated to the local leadership.

Dniester Cease-Fire Violations Reported

OW2504132492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There is uncertainty in the zone of armed confrontation in eastern Moldova. Although both sides had reached an agreement on cease-fire which was to begin at 20:00 April 24, exchanges of fire, including mortar fire, continued last night. According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, in the morning fire was ended and groups of deputies from the cities and regions adjacent to the conflict zone arrived at the positions of the conflicting sides. Their activity, supplemented with the efforts of the population of the adjacent villages and cities, has brought about results which surprised the Chisinau and Tiraspol leaders: Moldovan volunteers and the Dniester self-defence detachments are leaving their positions and going home.

People's diplomacy is being backed by the activity of a mixed commission of observers, set up by the deputies of the local city, district and village councils. To coordinate the peace-making activity, the commission has formed up a group of observers to exercise control over the

implementation of the cease-fire agreement. This group is headquartered in the village of Dorotskoye, not far from the frontline.

Meanwhile, one more conflict flared up during the official talks between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The conciliatory commission which is led by Vice-Premier Konstantin Oborok on the Moldovan side and by Vice-President of the Dniester republic Alexander Karaman on the Dniester side, has found itself in a deadlock during the discussion of the terms of cease-fire and of peaceful ways of settling the conflict.

The Dniester side proposed withdrawing all of the armed formations to places of their permanent dislocation, and sending a peace contingent of the states involved in the quadripartite talks on the Dniester region (Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania) to the conflict zone. Also, there are plans to transfer all functions of maintaining order on the Left Bank to the Dniester republic's militia and, if the local residents wish, to the district representatives of the Moldovan police.

The Moldovan side rejected these proposal because in its opinion it is tantamount to sending away representatives of Moldova's legitimate authority from the Left Bank and to the loss of sovereignty over this territory.

Moldova-Dniester Talks End Without Results

LD2504165192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] We have just received a fax from the Dniester press center. Talks in the village of Adarotskoye between Moldovan and Dniester representatives did not bring any real results. Moldovan representatives have rejected a proposal by Dniester representatives to set up a peace zone between the village of Vodolye Vody and the village of Adarotskoye. The proposal to withdraw armed formations from both banks of Dniester around the village of Grigoriupol, as well as from the village of Parkany to the Vodolye Vody bridge was also rejected. Moldovan representatives insist that help centers should be reinstated in Dubossary and Grigoriupol. The only agreement that was reached was the one that stipulates that the central commission should work out a procedure to enforce a cease- fire. The date for the next talks has not been decided.

Dniester Accuses Moldova of Frustrating Talks

OW2704140092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of the Dniester Republic proclaimed on the left bank of the Dniester have accused Moldova of frustrating the talks on peaceful settlement of the armed conflict on the Left Bank. On April 27 they circulated a statement which says that instead of implementing the recommendations set forth in the protocol of the foreign ministries of Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine envisaging an immediate disengagement of armed formations, Moldova has advanced claims unacceptable for the Dniester Republic. For instance, Moldova demanded that the Moldovan police units be fully restored in the cities of Dubossary and Grigoriupol.

The Dniester leaders believe that the implementation of such a demand which goes against the will of the local population, will sharply aggravate the situation in the conflict zone and provoke new armed clashes.

The statement says that the Dniester side's proposal to turn the Dniester direction into a zone of peace and disengage the armed formations, have been turned down by the Moldovan delegation.

As the talks on peaceful settlement of the conflict have been foiled, the Dniester leaders have urged the UN, the CSCE and the Foreign Ministries of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Romania to assist in ensuring the implementation of the quadripartite agreement on the Dniester region and to send a peace-keeping force to the conflict zone.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Dniester regions remains tense. Occasionally, the conflicting forces of the Moldovan police and the Dniester guards exchange fire. There are no reports about victims.

Militia Detachments Replaced by Moldovan Forces

LD2604171392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The past 24 hours in the town of Bendery in the Dniester Republic and its environs have passed quietly. An Easter service took place in the town's cathedral. In accordance with the agreement concluded with the Moldavian side, Dniester Republican guards have unblocked the roads leading into Bendery and have removed their posts.

Meanwhile, the Rika agency reports, quoting the Bendery working committee, the opposing side is concentrating troops and armored vehicles around the town. Special Purpose Militia Detachments are being replaced by regular Moldavan military formations.

Resolution Issued To Stabilize Cash Circulation

LD2504040392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A drastic shortage of cash has forced the administrative council of the Moldovan National Bank to issue a resolution on urgent measures to stabilize cash circulation. The document bans payouts in cash of wages over 2,500 rubles. The Moldovan Savings Bank has been instructed to find ways of supplying commercial banks with checks and checkbooks on negotiated terms. A rise in savings interest rates has been recommended to provide the public with incentives to put their spare money into bank accounts.

Kyrgyzstan

Russian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Topics of Talks Outlined

LD2404173192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev is making a trip to the Near and Middle East. Talks with Roza Otunbayeva, head of the foreign policy department of Kyrgyzstan, took place in Bishkek today. Commenting on yesterday's regional meeting, the Russian minister stated that Russia has no intentions to compete for spheres of influence and favors cooperation between the region and Turkey and Iran.

[Correspondent Fedorov, identified by caption] It was stressed that regional interests do not change Russia's long-standing priority as far as Kyrgyztan is concerned. There is still the hope in Bishkek for the firm Russian shoulder and for a speeding up of the implementation of the agreements reached during Boris Yeltsin's visit. The promised loan of 800 million rubles is also remembered here. Diplomatic contacts will start to gain some substance after the exchange of articles of ratification on the treaty on the foundations of interstate relations between Russia and Kyrgyztan concluded last July. The U.S. and Turkish Embassies are already operating in Bishkek. Now there will also be a Russian Embassy.

Issues of interethnic relations were also raised at a meeting between the minister and the Orthodox clergymen and the public of the Kyrgyz capital. The increase in emigration to Russia shows that problems exist here. At the initiative of the Kyrgyz side a special document protecting the rights and interests of national minorities, and Russians are painfully getting used to such a status, was adopted at the latest conference of the heads of region's states.

Joint Statement on Afghanistan Issued

LD2404145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1322 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Bishkek April 24 TASS—A political settlement of internal Afghan problems is the only real way of unblocking the protracted conflict there, says a joint statement on Afghanistan adopted today by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Kyrgyz counterpart Roza Otunbayeva.

The ministers called on the warring Afghan sides and states, involved in Afghan affairs, to actively contribute to the success of U.N. peace-making activities.

The fate of former Soviet servicemen taken prisoner in Afghanistan provokes great concern in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, says the document. Both countries believe this purely humanitarian issue should not be used in any political aims.

Relations 'Positively Assessed'

LD2404144592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Bishkek April 24 TASS—Russia and Kyrgyzstan positively assessed the state of bilateral relations and called to promote the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two former Soviet republics, according to a communique adopted upon the completion of Bishkek visit of the Russian foreign minister.

Andrey Kozyrev and his Kyrgyz counterpart Roza Otunbayeva stated the need to ensure the rights and interests of Christians living in Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz living in Russia.

With this aim, the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan will conclude corresponding agreements on the basis of principles of respect for sovereignty and noninterference in each others' internal affairs with due account of generally-recognized norms of the international law.

Kozyrev Comments on Meetings

LD2404174592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Video report by correspondent A. Shaskov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a meeting in Bishkek today with Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev, held talks with his counterpart Rosa Otunbayeva, and signed a protocol on cooperation among various political departments in the two countries. The ministers also exchanged instruments of ratification enacting the Russian-Kyrgyz treaty on interstate relations. Describing his meetings, Andrey Kozyrev said, among other things:

[Kozyrev] We have been discussing the fact that there is a balance of regional policy. For Russia this is a most important region, Central Asia and Kazakhstan. We are counting on further cooperation with this region, and in the CIS context we believe that the integration processes taking place here among the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan do not run counter to the CIS. On the contrary, they enrich, they fit in, so to speak, with this overall process of cooperation. And I was very pleased to hear just that interpretation on the part of the president.

Kozyrev Leaves for Saudi Arabia

LD2404175192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Bishkek, 24 Apr—At the end of a two-day working visit to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, flew out from Bishkek this afternoon for Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is the first stage of the Russian minister's working trip to six Persian Gulf countries.

Tajikistan

Security Committee Chairman Relieved of Duties

LD2404201492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Decree by president of the Republic of Tajikistan—read by announcer]

[Text] Decree by the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on relieving Comrade Stroykin from the post of Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Comrade Stroykin is relieved from his post as Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan in view of his leaving the territory of the republic.

[Signed] Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Kenjayev Appointed New Chairman

LD2404202392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Decree by president of the Republic of Tajikistan—read by announcer]

[Text] Decree by the president of the Republic of Tajikistan on appointing Comrade Safarali Kenjayev as chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Comrade Safarali Kenjayev is appointed as chairman of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Signed] Rakhman Nabiyev, president of the Republic of Tajikistan; City of Dushanbe

[Date] 24 April 1992.

Rally Participants Free From Prosecution

LD2404172192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan "on the nonprosecution of the participants of the rally in Shakhidon Square—read by announcer]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

No criminal, administrative, or disciplinary actions should be taken against the participants of the rally held in Shakhidon Square, city of Dushanbe, from 26 March to 24 April 1992.

Opposing Groups Resume Rallies in Dushanbe

LD2504134492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1219 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Dushanbe—On April 24, Tajikistan's President Rakhman Nabiyev signed a decree appointing Safarali Kenjayev chairman of the republic's National Security Committee. Until that day, Anatoliy Stroykin held the post. During the presentation of Safarali Kenjayev to the National Security Committee staff, Vice-President Narzullo Dustov blamed Stroykin for the fact that the KGB failed to prevent the taking of deputies hostage on the night of April 23.

At a rally in Kulyab on April 24, Mulla Khaydar Sharifzoda, the qazi (leading Islamic dignitary) of the Kulyab region, called for a march on Dushanbe to demand the resignation of Khodzha Akbar Turadzhonzoda from the post of the qazi of Tajikistan. On the night of April 24, a column of buses with supporters of the Kulyab qazi arrived in Dushanbe. People crowded in Ozodi Square in front of the parliament building. There were some 500 people in the square at night, but by the morning the crowd increased several times. The rally demands that Safarali Kenjayev be reinstated as president of Tajik parliament and that all the resolutions adopted at the latest session be abrogated. The rally also demanded that the chief Islamic dignitary of the republic be elected by the whole people. Buses from the Leninabad region are expected to arrive in Ozodi Square. Supporters of Safarali Kenjayev blocked Shakhmansur Bazaar and demand the lowering of prices.

Prosecutor-General of the republic Nurullo Khuvaidullayev addressed the rally of Kenjayev's supporters in Ozodi Square. He urged those present to keep calm and said that their demands will be considered. Abdullo Ochilov, chairman of the organizing committee of the republican party, also spoke. He urged Kenjayev's supporters to remain in the square until justice is done to the former president of parliament who, Ochilov said, is engaged in noble and difficult struggle against the mafia.

Safarali Kenjayev's adversaries began to gather in Shakhidon Square the same night. They demand his dismissal from the post of chairman of National Security Committee. Kenjayev's opponents crowding in Shakhidon Square at a distance of one trolleybus stop from Ozodi Square number 5,000.

'Serious Conflict' Threatened

OW2504130792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday evening, about 2,000 demonstrators supporting Safarali Kenjayev, who was recently removed from the post of chairman of the Tajik parliament, gathered in Ozodi Square in front of the parliament building in Dushanbe. (Yesterday, the Tajik President appointed Safarali Kenjayev to the post of chairman of the Tajik National Security Committee). The demonstrators arrived from the city of Kulyab and demand that the parliament convene an extraordinary session and cancel all agreements with the opposition. Besides that, they insist that the leader of the Tajik Muslims, Khodzha Akbar Turadzhonzoda be removed from his post and tried.

According to the opposition's reports, confirmed by the official quarters, several hundred people are moving to Dushanbe by railway from the city of Khudzhand (the Leninabad region) to join the demonstrators in Ozodi Square.

Meanwhile, supporters of the opposition who had been holding a meeting for several weeks in Shakhidon Square in front of the government building, gathered in that square once again. Their number exceeds that of Kenjayev's supporters and they keep coming in columns of 100 to 200 people.

The opposition leaders believe that confrontation in Tajikistan is threatening to evolve into a serious conflict. Now meetings are seething in two squares and a clash may occur any moment.

Chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan Shodmon Yusupov noted that the appointment of Safarali Kenjayev as chairman of the National Security Committee, following his forced resignation as chairman of the parliament on insistence of the opposition, "destabilizes the situation and will not bring about any social or political improvement".

Nabiyev Contacts Rally Leaders

LD2504210392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today, talks were held between Tajikistan's President Rakhman Nabiyev and representatives and leaders of both sides taking part in the rallies. But, according to our correspondent, he does not know anything about the outcome yet.

Kenjayev Speaks at Ozodi Square

OW2604140292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1315 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO—all Tajik names as received]

[Text] A rally in support of the chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet, Safarali Kenjayev, who has resigned at the opposition's insistence, has been gaining momentum in Dushanbe today (April 26). Kenjayev's supporters demand that he be given back his post, that the republic's government annul its agreement with the opposition, and that Khodzha Akbar Turadzhonzoda, head of the qaziat, Muslim clerical administration, who supports the opposition, be dismissed from his post.

Kenjayev spoke at the rally, saying he did not feel guilty and was glad the people supported him.

Last night opposition supporters finished their own rally on the square in front of the government building at Turadzhonzoda's appeal, but began getting together again today having learnt that Kenjayev's supporters were still continuing their meeting.

Decision on Political Situation Adopted

LD2404165292 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Decision by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan "on the political situation in the Republic of Tajikistan" —read by announcer]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, having comprehensively discussed and examined the political situation arising in the Republic of Tajikistan and taking into account the social-economic situation that has come about, states that the session of the Supreme Soviet has sensibly approached solution of issues facing the independent Republic of Tajikistan. The Supreme Soviet and representatives of the political parties and movements, during the work of the session, made efforts to overcome the complicated situation. Thanks to the work of a commission made up of deputies, an acceptable solution was found to all issues.

Demands made by political parties and movements were included on the agenda of the session and its order discussed. The Supreme Soviet approved a decision by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan on publishing the draft of the new constitution in the press for public discussion. The method of adopting the new constitution and the date for elections to the new parliament on a multiparty basis were fixed. A series of previously adopted documents by the Supreme Soviet were reexamined taking into account the protection of interests, rights, and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Amendments were introduced to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on press and other means of mass media as well as articles of the criminal code.

The Supreme Soviet calls on political parties and movements and citizens to unite to achieve prosperity for the people, ensure social and economic progress in the Republic of Tajikistan in order to find a suitable place in the world community, and to determine equal rights and opportunities for every citizen regardless of party affiliation and religious beliefs.

The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan resolves:

1. The report by Dustov, the vice president of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the political situation in the republic should be (?considered).

2. All citizens, parties, and social movements are called upon to support the Supreme Soviet, the president, and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan in their work to improve the social and economic situation in the republic, to strengthen production-labor discipline as well as in [words indistinct] current laws of the Republic of Tajikistan.

3. It is (?to be taken into account) that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan has adopted a decision on publishing the draft new constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan for public discussion and the discussion period has been fixed until 1 July 1992.

4. It is noted that following the discussions and adoption by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan of the draft new constitution, the elections to the new parliament on a multiparty basis will be held in December 1992.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan should make proposals on urgent measures to overcome crisis, to stabilize the economy, and enhance the level of social security for all levels of the population and present them for discussion to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Turkmenistan

Republic Seen as 'Hostage' in Nuclear Deal

MK2604121592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 6

[Igor Zhukov report under "Nuclear Electric Power Station [AES]" rubric: "Long Echo of Chernobyl. Russian Atomic Energy Industry Workers Ready To Build AES for Iran"]

[Text] The accident at the Leningrad AES generated an unexpected response in the extreme south of the CIS. In Turkmenistan it stimulated discussion of a question which even quite recently the local authorities did not rank in the category of important problems.

At the end of February a group of seismologists from the neighboring Islamic Republic of Iran, staffers of Iran's atomic center, arrived in Ashkhabad. At the Turkmen Academy of Sciences they met with the leadership of the Seismology Institute and signed a protocol on scientific and technical cooperation. The protocol recorded the sides' commitment to arrange joint work "On evaluating the seismological threat and predicting earthquakes on territories contiguous to the two countries, and on exchanging specialists and noncommercial information." The protocol reflected the partners' wish to present their activity as a UNESCO-sponsored international project to combat natural disasters.

One point in the protocol instructs the Turkmen seismologists "to assist in operations to select sites for Iranian atomic facilities." As NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA's correspondent was told by Tachmet Ashirov, director of the Turkmen Academy of Sciences' Seismology Institute, cooperation with the Iranian atomic center began last year and was initiated by Russia. At the invitation of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry's "Zarubezhatomenergostroy" Production Association Turkmen seismologists went to Iran in December 1991. The purpose of the trip was to provide a seismological report on a site in the southern Caspian region selected by Russian specialists for the construction of a nuclear power station ordered by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The idea behind this project had been discussed by the interested parties several years ago, but it was Russian rather than Union structures that set about the specific implementation of the idea.

After three months' work by specialists and Turkmen seismologists "Zarubezhatomenergostroy" recived the requisite findings. They mentioned, in particular, that the locality of the proposed AES construction in Bender-Torkemen, some 50 km from the Turkmen border, is situated in an area of "active current movements and manifestations of destructive earthquakes related to the structures of the Elbrus range in the south, the Kopetdag range in the northeast, and the Great Balkhan range in the north." This zone of two tectonic fractures had already experienced strong earthquakes. The requirements of the International Atomic Energy Association prohibiting AES construction within the range of high seismicity are thereby breached. Turkmen environmental monitoring services also associated themselves with the seismologists' adverse conclusions. According to their data, the locality selected for the AES contravenes a minimum of four of the 24 mandatory requirements regarding the siting of nuclear power stations approved back in October 1987 by the USSR Council of Ministers' Fuel and Energy Complex Bureau.

Today the results of the research are known both in Moscow and Tehran, but they are scarcely capable of derailing the proposed deal. The Iranian side is not concealing its interest in the construction of the AES in precisely this region. As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent was informed by Nazar Soyunov, a member of Turkmenistan's Presidential Council, during

the visit to Ashkhabad the vice president of the Iranian atomic center, Haji Azimu, mentioned the short life expectancy of Iranian gas and the reliability of a source of energy such as nuclear fuel. As local observers believe, there exists a serious political factor which is influencing Iran's choice of site for the AES. Northern Iran is home to a large proportion of Turkmenistanns, who in 1924 already had their own republic independent of Tehran. Although destroyed in 1925, it left behind it a powerful pull in the direction of separatism. The construction of the AES in the "unfavorable region" will entail the resettlement of some of the indigenous inhabitants into the heart of the country and trigger a counter flow of service personnel for the station, thereby—according to the intention of the authors of the idea—to some extent extinguishing "undesirable sentiments."

In this game the Russian atomic energy industry workers have their own priorities. Otherwise deprived of orders, "Zarubezhatomenergostroy" acquires the opportunity to put its financial affairs to rights. It is believed in Turkmenistan that for this reason the association's specialists may disregard the data of the Turkmen scientists by carrying out their own expert appraisal. In these conditions Turkmenistan has in store for it by no means the best role of hostage to someone else's deal.

The Turkmenistan Presidential Council's Emergency Situations Commission has requested a report from the republic's experts. It intends to acquaint Russian President Boris Yeltsin with them [as published] during his upcoming visit to Ashkhabad.

Afghan Mujahidin Want Border Cooperation

OW2504020192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Afghan opposition is interested in maintaining law and order on the border with Turkmenistan and uninterrupted operating of the border posts, a spokesman for the leader of Mujahidin acting on the northwest of Afghanistan said at a meeting with representatives of the CIS border troops near Kushka April23. IF [INTERFAX] received this information at the CIS Border Troops' press center.

Armenia

President Leaves on Official Visit to Syria

NC2504134592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left for Syria today on an official visit. He is scheduled to hold talks with the Syrian leadership on political and economic cooperation during the three-day visit. In addition to Damascus, Levon Ter-Petrosyan will also visit Aleppo.

Armenian State Minister Vigen Chitechyan, Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian and other officials are accompanying the president on his visit.

Experts Arrive To Prepare for Karabakh Observers

LD2504124492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Loris Gukasyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 25 Apr (TASS)—An advance group of experts arrived here today on the instructions of Jiri Dienstbier, chairman of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers. The experts are to prepare the conditions for arrival in Nagorno-Karabakh of CSCE observers, whose mandate will be approved at a meeting of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials in Helsinki on 29 and 30 April.

As the ARMENPRESS correspondent was told at the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Dienstbier sent a similar mission to Baku as well.

Villages Shelled From Azerbaijan Territory

LD2604104892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 26 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, April 26 TASS—A number of villages of Goris district in Armenia's south-east were heavily shelled from Azerbaijan territory on Saturday [25 April]. In addition, a grad installation fired several salvoes against populated areas, according to Robert Aleksanyan, chairman of the Goris District Council.

Aleksanyan emphasised that the border villages were fired upon throughout Saturday. One woman was killed and another one wounded and is in a serious condition. Children were evacuated from Kornidzor village which was shelled most heavily.

The situation in Kapan district in Armenia's south-east is not less anxious. The Azerbaijani side fired on all the ten villages and Kapan district centre with a population of 40,000, according to Slavik Aerapetyan, chairman of the District Council. Sixteen people have been killed and many wounded over the past two days. Armenian self-defence forces returned the fire.

A spokesman at the Executive Commmittee of the Krasnoselsk District Council reported that there were no clashes on the border on Saturday. Talks were held there on that day, and will be continued on Sunday [26 April], to lift the blockade of Artsvashen village.

The Azerbaijani Army continues to conduct sub-machine gun fire on villages in Armenia's north-east. Derinik Badalyan, first deputy chairman of the District Executive Committee, said people have got accustomed to such firing and the Armenian side does not return the fire.

The district has been deprived of electric power for the second day—a large substation was damaged during firing. On Saturday the Azerbaijanis returned one hostage from Paravakar village to the Armenian side but continue to hold another two from Choratan village.

There is no shooting in Vaik district which borders on Nakhichevan but Azerbaijani saboteurs crossed into Armenian territory and planted mines near Bartsruni village. An Ural bus struck one of the mines. There was no loss of life while the bus was destroyed by the blast, a man on duty at the District Executive Committee told ITAR-TASS.

According to the Armenian State Board for Special Programmes, the Azerbaijani side continues to shell Stepanakert from grad installations. They fired 150 projectiles on the city, inflicting damage.

Supreme Soviet on Azerbaijani Force Attacks

NC2404182992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Armenian Supreme Soviet held a closed session yesterday to look at defense issues and adopted the following declaration:

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces operations against the peaceful population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] since February 1992 have become large-scale attacks with dangerous dimensions. Stepanakert and rayon centers are being totally destroyed by fierce shelling from Grad rockets and other artillery. In addition, tanks and armored cars are being used in continuous attacks against scores of border settlements. Innocent people, including children, women, and the elderly, are dying every day. Just recently, 52 people were monstrously killed in Maraga. The village was then burned to the ground.

The armed attacks on Armenia's border regions are becoming more frequent and dangerous. All this makes the threat of an Armenian-Azerbaijani war more likely; a war which would inevitably involve other states and would have irreversible destructive consequences.

The Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet declares that Russia will bear the responsibility for the future use of

military hardware, arms, and ammunition seized or transferred to Azerbaijan and used against the peaceful population of NKR and Armenia. The Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet considers the Russian leadership's stance and actions to be extremely dangerous and unfriendly. They are also incompatible with the interstate agreement signed by the presidents of Armenia and Russia in December 1991 and with the founding documents of the CIS.

The Armenian Republic Supreme Soviet hopes that the Russian leadership's future policy in Transcaucasia will not be at variance with Russia's oft-stated desire to help solve the conflict.

Russia Blamed

PM2404122592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Armenian Parliament Accuses Russian Leadership"]

[Text] Yerevan—On 22 April the Armenian Supreme Soviet discussed behind closed doors the situation in the border areas, which was reported on by republic Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan. The parliament adopted a statement, the unusually strong tone of which indicates the extreme gravity of the current situation.

In particular, the statement expresses bewilderment and indignation at the position of Russia's top political and military leaders on the events taking place in the region. What did it mean exactly? Above all, the Russian authorities' connivance at the seizure of combat equipment, weapons, and ammunition by the Azerbaijani side. The document mentions 1,000 freight cars carrying ammunition, which were captured in Agdamskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan, and cites the hijacking of a supersonic Su-24 bomber, although the main emphasis is on the accord on the transfer of one-fourth of the Caspian Flotilla to Azerbaijan.

The Armenian parliament believes that the whole of this formidable arsenal will certainly be used against Nagorno-Karabakh, and also in the Armenian-Azerbaijani border area. As for the decision on the Caspian Flotilla, it violates the legal principles of the formation of the CIS. Russia had no right to transfer off its own bat to Azerbaijan military assets that are the common property of the CIS countries, the statement says.

The Armenian parliament describes these actions by the Russian leadership as dangerous and unfriendly and considers them to be incompatible with the interstate treaty and fundamental documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signed in December 1991 by the Armenian and Russian presidents.

Iranian Delegation Visits Genocide Monument

NC2504201992 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Accompanied by the Iranian Embassy's representative accredited to Armenia and the members of Tehran's Armenian prelacy council, the delegation led by Iranian Majlis Deputy Vartan Vartanian placed wreaths yesterday at the monument eternalizing the memory of the victims of the great genocide.

A second airplane has arrived in Yerevan on 23 April carrying 27.5 tons of cargo procured through contributions from Armenians in Iran and dispatched to Armenia by the Iranian Red Crescent.

Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet on 'Genocide'

NC2404185292 Yerevan Armenia's Radio International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The people of Nagorno-Karabakh marked 24 April as a day of mourning and eternalized the memory of the martyrs of the Armenian genocide for the first time ever.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a special decision on 22 April, issuing the following declaration:

The Armenian people will continue to demand that all the nations and organizations in the world condemn the crime and force the Turkish Government, which inherited the genocide, to recognize the crime. If this is not done, humanity will always experience crimes such as the ones carried out against the Jews, Poles, and Russians during World War II; by the genocide of the Armenians in Sumgait, Baku, Gyandzha, Maraga, and elsewhere.

Communists Not To Take Part in Russian Congress

PM2704123792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Unidentified correspondent report under the rubric "Day By Day. 19-20": "Armenian Communists Will Not Come to Moscow"]

[Text] S. Badayan, secretary of the recently re-formed Armenian Communist Party, has denied a report on the Russian television program "Vesti" that Armenian Communists have agreed to participate in the planned Russian Communist Party congress.

He also stressed that contacts between the revived Communist Parties of the former union republics are possible in principle, but on an ideological-theoretical level, rather than an organizational level, at the same time recalling that the Armenian Communist Party proclaimed its full autonomy and independence from the CPSU two years ago.

Azerbaijan

Armenia Accused of Using Chemical Weapons

OW2504125792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri Defense Ministry has accused Armenia of using chemical weapons in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Ministry issued a statement April 24 saying that in recent days the city of Shusha and nearby villages were shelled with poison gas bombs. The statement notes that the fact was confirmed by medical expertise.

The Azeri Defense Ministry urged the international community to condemn the use of chemical weapons in the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

Another statement by the Azeri Defense Ministry says that earlier this week "local self-defense force" started to guard a military warehouse near the city of Gyandzha due to "serious concern of the city residents" over events at a military warehouse in Balaovit (Armenia). According to the statement, there have been reports on possible diversions at warehouses near Gyandzha by Armenian forces.

As a result of an operation launched by CIS forces April 22 night to expel Azeri units from the warehouse, one Azeri, father of 6 children, was killed and 4 servicemen of the Azeri Defense Ministry wounded, the statement says.

The Defense Ministry states that the use of force by CIS troops stationed on the republic's territory leads to further aggravation of the explosive situation in the republic. The Ministry expresses hope that in future conflicts will be resolved by peaceful means.

Accusations 'Refuted'

LD2504203292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense has accused Armenia of using chemical weapons in Karabakh. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Committee has refuted this information.

News agencies report that shelling has intensified, and the number of casualties on both sides has also increased. Helicopters, Grad units, and large-caliber artillery guns are being used in fighting.

Government Agrees To International Observers

OW2604161992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview to the Interfax' Elchin Khalilov, Albert Salamov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, said that the Azerbaijani Government agrees to the ESC [expansion not given] plan to place international observer groups in the zone of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He approved of rigid control measures over the observance of the agreements which can be reached through the ESC mediation.

In the words of Albert Salamov, the ESC is planning to place up to 150-200 observers in the conflict zone, with their strongholds deployed in Baku and Yerevan. The Azerbaijani side insists that in the conflict zone the observers be deployed not only on the Azerbaijani but also on the Armenian territory in the locations from which, in the opinion of Azerbaijan, its territory is subjected to fire attacks.

The ESC group, currently on a visit in Baku, headed by the Swedish Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Mathias Mossberg, is conducting talks on this subject with the Parliament and Government of Azerbaijan. The ESC group is planning to stay in Azerbaijan for about 10 days.

Supreme Soviet Session Postponed Indefinitely

LD2704102192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0918 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagiyev—TASS]

[Text] Baku, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—An extraordinary session of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, which was to open today, has been postponed for an indefinite period. The republican television reports that the session was postponed at the request of the deputies from rayons bordering Armenia, where situation has worsened sharply in the last few days. The postponement of the session also is linked to the aggravation of the sociopolitical situation in Azerbaijan.

A discussion of the sociopolitical situation in the republic was expected to be held during the session.

Air Defense Station Capture Undermines Security

PM2404204992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Armen Khanbabyan report: "Transcaucasus Left 'Uncovered'"]

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources that on 21 April, the Azerbaijan Army captured the headquarters of the CIS Air Defense Forces Brigade Control Center near the city of Mingechaur.

The guard of this major air defense complex was disarmed. This means that the entire Transcaucasus air defense system has been completely undermined, according to experts. If the center remains in the Azerbaijani side's hands, it means that from now on any

intruder aircraft can encroach unhindered into the airspace not only of the states of the region, but also southern Russia.

Yusupov Appointed New Internal Affairs Minister

NC2504191692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Yakub Mamedov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, issued a decree, dated 25 April 1992, appointing Nurettin Israfil ogly Yusupov as minister of internal affairs. The decree has been conveyed to the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet for consideration.

Tahir Y. Aliyev has been relieved of his responsibilities as minister of internal affairs.

Karabakh Presidium Confirms Defense Council

LD2404162292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A report from Stepanakert: The Presidium of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet has confirmed the position of the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Defense Council. The chairman of the parliament, his first deputy, the commander of the self-defense forces, the minister of defense, and the chairman of the permanent parliamentary commission on defense are members of the council. The chairman of the NKR Supreme Soviet at the same time is the leader of the Defense Council and the commander of self-defense forces of Karabakh.

Ammunition Storage Taken Back; Hostages Freed

LD2404194792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, April 24 TASS—A strategic storage of aviation ammunition near Gyandzhi, Western Azerbaijan, seized two days ago by Azeri armed units, was taken under protection of a paratrooper unit at 2 A.M. today.

Seventeen hostages, including servicemen and members of their families, were freed yesterday with active cooperation of the Azeri leaders.

Aliyev: 'I Will Come If the People Call'

PM2204114892 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 92 p 2

[Interview with Nakhichevan Supreme Mejlis Chairman Geydar Aliyev by O. Tekhmenev; place and date not given: "Geydar Aliyev: "I Will Come If the People Call"—first three paragraphs are "From the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Dossier"]

[Text]

From the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Dossier

Geydar Alirza ogly Aliyev, born 1923, member of the CPSU from 1945, worked in the organs of state security until 1969. He was first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee from 1969 through 1982, then held the post of first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers until 1987, and was a member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo from 1982. He resigned in the fall of 1987. He left the CPSU 19 June 1991. Today he is chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Mejlis and deputy chairman of the republic [of Azerbaijan] parliament. According to the results of a public opinion poll carried out by the Center for Strategic Research, Geydar Aliyev is the most prestigious political figure in Azerbaijan.

In order to understand who Geydar Aliyev is today, one should know that Aliyev represents credits worth $100 million for the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's 300,000-strong population, granted to him during his recent visit to Turkey. Aliyev represents the most stable and peaceful border with Armenia. Aliyev represents a free economic zone.

Yagub Mamedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and acting president of the republic, says: "I have good relations with Geydar Alirzayevich. My opinion of him, like that of many in the republic, is positive. Look at Baku! The finest modern buildings were built under him, he has done much for the republic..." [introductory passage ends]

[Tekhmenev] Geydar Alirzayevich, the first question concerns one of the most unpleasant chapters in your life: your resignation...

[Aliyev] To put it briefly... During the last years of my work the situation in the Politburo was difficult. Soon after his election as general secretary of the Central Committee Gorbachev became more self-assured, more self-reliant. He took little account of the opinion of Politburo members, although questions were of course formally discussed... Some Politburo members Gorbachev oppressed—not openly, but with all the levers at his command.

I was in disagreement with Gorbachev's proposals and actions on a number of issues and he sensed this. His cadre policy at the level of republics, autonomous formations, and oblasts caused me particular dissatisfaction. He was manifestly violating here the principles by which were supposed to be guided, that is to say, he was infringing the rights and interests of republics and oblasts. The events in Alma-Ata of December 1986 in connection with the change of leadership of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee also provoked my particular antipathy. In effect he settled this question himself. After the student unrest, instead of objectively evaluating what happened, Gorbachev formulated the question of Kazakh nationalism. Solomentsev, who once worked as second secretary of the Kazakh Communist

Party Central Committee, was sent to Alma-Ata to investigate. This surprised me very much, since Solomentsev's reputation in the republic was not high... I expressed my opinion, and felt that my presence was very irritating to Gorbachev.

From In June 1987 I fell ill and was in hospital for three months, and there I thought over many things. I was surprised that not once in those three months did Gorbachev inquire after my health, i.e. after the welfare of his Politburo comrade. Of course, I was offended, but this is not what was most important. You see, this episode graphically illustrates the moral climate in the Politburo.

In late October 1987 I had a conversation with Gorbachev at which Ligachev was present. It was proposed that I write a resignation statement, which I did. I myself was inwardly ready to resign.

Within 15 days of my resignation Academician Aganbegyan made a statement in Paris about the need to annex Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, saying that this matter had been agreed with Gorbachev. After this, events began to develop intensively, and they led to the tragedy which we witness today.

[Tekhmenev] However, there is calm on the borders between Nakhichevan and Armenia today...

[Aliyev] Some days after my election as chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Mejlis I called Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. We had a businesslike conversation about the border problems between Nakhichevan and Armenia. We agreed to adopt measures to prevent conflict situations on the border. True, there have been cases since that time when inhabitants of Armenia have found themselves in the position of hostages, but the same is true for inhabitants of Nakhichevan. There have been incidents of the disruption of train traffic through Nakhichevan. Each time we managed to eliminate the conflicts by means of talks. In March the leaders of Armenia and Nakhichevan held a meeting. We confirmed the accord achieved between Levon Ter-Petrosyan and myself. True, passenger trains are still not running regularly between Nakhichevan and Baku in view of the complex situation in Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon, across whose territory the line runs. But cargo trains are running, and I think that we will settle this question as well in the very near future.

[Tekhmenev] The Azerbaijan parliament recently reinstated a section—repealed last fall—of an article of the republic Constitution according to which you also the hold the position of deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. What are your relations with the republic's present leadership?

[Aliyev] In my opinion an injustice took place in the fall not only with regard to me, but with regard to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic as well. The Constitution was altered then simply to stop Geydar Aliyev being deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet. As a result Nakhichevan found itself deprived of its constitutional rights. Recently justice has been restored.

As for my attitude to the Azerbaijan parliament, irrespective of my opinion about its qualitative composition (and it is extremely low), I treat the Supreme Soviet with respect. Unfortunately, my every speech formerly led to attacks by other deputies, organized by the former republic leadership. I speak on the question under discussion, but after me people come out and propose to discuss Geydar Aliyev instead of the business in hand. I said then and I say now: I am ready to answer for all the period of almost 14 years that I led the republic; set aside a day or two or three, even a month for this question, but at the moment we have to decide the most pressing questions which face us and are being discussed by parliament.

I observe the people who currently rule the republic. My attitude to the republic authorities has always been openly critical. If the current Azerbaijan leadership acts in the way of the old republic leadership, I will treat it accordingly.

[Tekhmenev] Here in Nakhichevan it is often said that economic reform is promising to turn Nakhichevan into a second Hong Kong... Do you believe this yourself?

[Aliyev] First, I have never succumbed to illusions, and would not like to speak of any kind of economic miracle. At the same time Nakhichevan's geographic and geopolitical position and its natural resources give it the right to say that in conditions of independence, of autonomy, serious changes could take place. We have declared Nakhichevan a free economic zone; in addition, the republic is situated on the crossroads of the transport paths linking Russia and Europe with Iran, Turkey, and other countries of the East. I think that our plans are realistic and we will be able to realize them.

From [Tekhmenev] Do you not rule out the possiblity of returning to the leadership of Azerbaijan?

[Aliyev] I refused to take up the post of chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Mejlis when a critical situation arose here in early September last year. However, when around 50,000 people assembled on the square outside the Supreme Mejlis and for a whole day demanded the same thing as the deputies had demanded, I could not refuse and oppose myself to the will of the people...

If I am needed by the people, I will fulfill its will. At any rate, I have never sworn on the Koran that I will not return to power, as some newspapers reported. [Aliyev ends]

Our conversation ended over a cup of tea. Questions concerning certain leaders of the CIS and the former USSR ("I do not want to give anyone a reference"), Aliyev's view on the solution of the Karabakh conflict ("Everyone is putting forward projects, but no one is doing anything, and the war continues. Why put forward yet another?"), and whom

Aliyev will support in the forthcoming presidential elections in Azerbaijan ("After all, I answered the question on my political future, why do we need to bring in anyone else's?") were left unanswered.

Georgia

Defense Minister Visits Troops in South Ossetia

OW2404140992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the IF [INTERFAX] correspondent's report, General Georgiy Sharashenidze, Minister of Defense of Georgia, and Major General Sufian Beppayev, Deputy Commander of the Caucasian Military District, arrived this Friday [24 April] at the airfield of the CIS helicopter regiment in the vicinity of Tskhinval in South Ossetia. The generals accompanied by up to two battalions of Georgian National Guardsmen came to attend the transfer of the regimental barracks to the Georgian National Guard.

The South Ossetian OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachments] and National Guard units were alerted on the arrival of generals Sharashenidze and Beppayev.

Alan Chochiyev, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia qualified the activities of the Georgian side as an act of "aggression against an independent state". He branded the actions of the command of the Caucasian Military District as Russia's "collusion with the Georgian side, and betrayal by Russia of the Ossetian people who have expressed wish [as received] to stay with Russia".

In Chochiyev's opinion, today's action may provoke a new outbreak of hostilities in South Ossetia.

Ossetians Attack CIS Regiment's Quarters

LD2404190292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Apr (TASS)—In Tskhinval today, there was an armed attack by Ossetian fighters on the checkpoint of the residential quarters of a helicopter regiment of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, which is stationed there. Three attackers stunned an officer by a blow to the head, but another on patrol managed to open fire and mortally wounded one attacker and detained a second. The third managed to escape.

The command headquarters of the Transcaucasian Military District informed the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the attackers were armed with submachine guns and a grenade. Earlier in Tskhinval, at the same unit, unknown assailants killed a sentry and seized his submachine gun, while the members of the guard were disarmed at a combat engineering regiment. The Ossetian side blamed this on Georgian fighters.

Ossetians Claim Troops Removed From Tskhinvali

OW2504131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the night April 24, units of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and of the Russian interior troops left their positions in Tskhinvali, the administrative center of South Ossetia, and moved to Georgia. In view of this, units of the South Ossetian republican guard and of the special militia detachment (OMON) assumed combat positions on the approaches to the city. The local self defense forces have been put into a state of increased combat readiness.

Armed clashes continue near Tskhinvali between the Ossetian units and Georgian armed formations which have besieged the city .

The withdrawal from Tskhinvali of the CIS units and of the Russian interior troops was condemned by the South Ossetian leaders. South Ossetian MP Ostayev believesthat such a step is a result of a "direct deal between the Russian government and the Georgian State Council." Another South Ossetian MP Kokoyev, described the withdrawal as "direct treason and a crime". He said that it will intensify combat operations between Georgian and South Ossetia and possibly lead to an assault of Tskhinvali by Georgian units.

The units of the Russian interior troops located in Tskhinvali have removed personnel and equipment from the line of disengagement. This information was confirmed to IF [INTERFAX] by Deputy- Commander of the Trans-Caucasian Military District Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev. However, he did not confirm that the troops had been withdrawn from Tskhinvali completely.

He refuted reports about the withdrawal from Tskhinvali of the Transcaucasian Military district's helicopter regiment located there. He also said that this question will be discussed during the talks between Deputy-Commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Pavel Grachev (who is also Russia's deputy minister of defence) and Georgian leaders, scheduled for April 29.

Further on Troop Withdrawal

LD2504132892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Early this morning Russian troops left South Ossetian territory and began a withdrawal over the Georgian border, crossing through Krestovyy Pass. According to a NEGA agency report, this has been stated at a Georgian State Council session.

Commenting on this event, Eduard Shevardnadze said that in a telephone conversation North Ossetian officials expressed concern over the escalation of the South Ossetian situation due to the withdrawal of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry troops. The North Ossetian leaders stated that the local population of South Ossetia fears an attack by Georgian guerrillas and the outbreak of carnage and is demanding that women and children be urgently evacuated from Tskhinvali.

Today's session of the Georgian State Council adopted an address to the population of Tskhinvali and its environs which stresses that now, with Georgians and Ossetians standing face to face, it is time to stop the bloodshed and immediately to initiate peace talks. The document notes that in the course of bloody clashes more than 450 people have been killed, hundreds are wounded, and dozens are missing without trace. More than 5,000 houses have been burnt to the ground.

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict was provoked in November 1990 by the Gamsakhurdia regime. After the arrival in power of the Georgian State Council, the conflict was defused to a certain extent. However, as before, Tskhinvali is gripped by a blockade. Guerrillas supporting Gamsakhurdia periodically shell the town.

Shevardnadze Cited on Withdrawal

LD2504225392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Georgia: Eduard Shevardnadze has said that members of the Georgian leadership were not forewarned of the the withdrawal of Russian Interior Ministry troops from the territory of South Ossetia. At a meeting of the Georgian State Council, Shevardnadze also said that the withdrawal of the troops did not come as a surprise to him. He also said that it had been decided not to put Georgian militia or Georgian Army units in Tskhinval, at least not in the next few days. Shevardnadze said that to bring in the militia would only cause futile bloodshed and human casualties. The State Council instructed the chairman of the state committee for interethnic relations and human rights, Aleksandr Kavsadze, to begin talks at once with the South Ossetians.

No Incidents Reported Since Departure of Troops

AU2704084692 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday evening, Enzar (?Saabanadze), chief of Gori's militia department, informed us that units of the former USSR internal troops located in Samachablo [South Ossetia] had left Tskhinvali. There have been no incidents since their departure from the region.

A trend toward stabilization of the political situation has become clearly noticeable in Zugdidi. During the last few days, no serious crimes have been registered in the region. Several citizens were detained and fined by patrol groups for violating the curfew. This information has come from Aleko Svaradze, Zugdidi's military commander.

As Levan (?Jvarkava), deputy chairman of the board of local administration in Martveli [town in western Georgia] informed us, it is quiet in the rayon. Spring work is being conducted successfully.

Shevardnadze Meets With German Ambassador

LD2604090592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1928 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Galina Chikovaniy—TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi,April 24 TASS—Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze today called on German Ambassador to Georgia Guenther Dahlhoff for the soonest preparation of agreement-legal basis for the Georgian-German relations.

The ambassador said his colleagues and he have made several steps to fulfill the agreements reached during negotiations between Shevardnadze and Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

A delegation of German experts will soon arrive in the republic to prepare together with German colleagues a package of documents on creation of the most favourable conditions for German investments in the Georgian economy.

A group of experts from four European states, including Germany, will work in mid-May in Tbilisi to consider projects of export-import operations. Several weeks after negotiations will be held to prepare an agreement on cooperation in science and culture.

Estonia

Statement on Relations With Russian Army Issued

LD2504084992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The press service of the Estonian Government has just published the Estonian Government's position in connection with the information from the Baltic News Service which said that relations between the Estonian Kuperjanov batallion and the Russian army have exacerbated. All conflicts between the USSR troops stationed here, and currently falling under Russian jurisdiction, and representatives of Estonian authority must be resolved peacefully, by way of talks, and without any threat of force. At the same time, the government confirms once again that all soldiers of a foreign country still stationed in Estonia must observe Estonian laws, without any deviation.

Swedish Minister Supports Troop Withdrawal

LD2604183592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Sweden supports the Estonian demand for the ex-USSR troop withdrawal as soon as possible. This was stated by Margaretha af Ugglas, Swedish foreign minister, at a news conference.

According to ETA, the Swedish foreign minister—currently in Estonia on the occasion of the visit of King Carl XVI Gustaf—had talks with Jaan Manitski, Estonian foreign minister, today. Matters related to the withdrawal of what are now Russian troops were indeed the main subject at the news conference organized for both Estonian and foreign journalists. [Break in transmission] The Swedish foreign minister emphasized that the security of the Baltic basin area is a common interest to all the states located in it. Speaking of specific Swedish support to Estonia, Manitski emphasized that even though material assistance must be viewed as important in every way, political support to the Republic of Estonia will be in the future (?definitely) more important.

Delegation Concludes Visit

OW2504174692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1429 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The King Carl XVI Gustaf and the Queen Silvia of Sweden completed their official three-day visit to Estonia April 24. The royal couple visited Tallinn, Tartu, Western and Northeastern Estonia.

At a press conference before the end of the visit the King of Sweden said: "We saw everywhere signs of historical ties between Estonia and Sweden. I hope these ties will be renewed soon".

Trade Agreement With Norway Delayed

OW2404135592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1254 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The signing of an agreement establishing free trade between Estonia and Norway has been temporarily postponed, chairman of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Alar Olljum told Baltfax.

The agreement had been initialed in March and Estonia is prepared to sign it into law. The delay is due to Norway's plans to sign similar agreements with Latvia and Lithuania, which are not yet ready to sign.

Mr. Olljum expects that the agreements will be signed in May or June of this year.

Latvia

Libyans, Iranians in Riga; Russia Selling Arms

MK2504115092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Nikolay Kiryakov report under "Latvia" rubric: "Russia Selling Its Submarines Abroad by Bringing Them to Marketable Condition at Latvian Shipyards"]

[Text] For a long time now the suburbs of Riga have been home to the Bolderaja naval training center. Right now a group of Iranian servicemen is undergoing training there, while representatives of Libya's armed forces—nine officers and 17 sailors with their families—billeted in the center's accommodation quarters are awaiting completion of the refit of a submarine purchased by their country in 1988 from the then USSR. The submarine is berthed at the No. 177 Ship Repair Plant in Bolderaja. It should be noted that both the training center, which has been in operation for a long time now, and the ship repair plant have mainly serviced the military needs of the countries of the Near East, which represented a fairly good item of revenue for the former Union.

Now the affiliation of the training center and plant no. 177 is the source of disputes between the states laying claim to them—Russia and Latvia.

Spokesmen for the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to comment on the Libyans' presence, or on the submarine berthed at the plant, alluding to the fact that the information is possibly inaccurate.

The republic newspaper DIENA published a photograph of two submarines: one—the Libyan vessel undergoing refit, the other—intended for sale to Iran.

In the opinion of experts, the given information enables the conclusion to be drawn that Riga is becoming a transshipment point through which the export of armaments from Russia is effected.

The report on the presence of Libyan servicemen in the capital of Latvia was a surprise for the spokesmen of the Latvian Foreign Ministry. But a spokesman for the leadership of the Bolderaja training center expressed bewilderment at the lack of information on the part of the Latvian Foreign Ministry and Government. "The Libyan servicemen are in Latvia legally," he stressed, "on the basis of the appropriate visas obtained by them."

The leadership of the training center believes that the presence of the Libyans in Bolderaja is linked neither with the interests of this training establishment nor with the interests of the Baltic naval fleet but is the result of an initiative on the part of the Main Technical Administration of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and this—as Maris Grinshteyns, a staffer of the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Maritime Affairs, explained—is an offshoot of the Russian defense department, which handles the sale of army property abroad.

According to unofficial information obtained by a NEGA correspondent from a Latvian Foreign Ministry staffer, that department intends to make an official protest to the Russian leadership.

Explanation for Libyan Sub Asked

LD2504133392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] As we have already reported, a Libyan submarine is berthed at the Baltic Fleet's No. 177 naval repair yard at Bolderaja, Riga. Inarts Skujins, our correspondent in Latvia, was told by the Latvian Foreign Ministry that some foreign embassies in Riga, in particular the U.S. Embassy, have reacted quite strongly to the presence of a Libyan submarine in a Latvian port. In view of the fact that the naval base is still fully under the control of the Russian navy, the Latvian Foreign Ministry has officially asked the Russian Foreign Ministry to provide a full explanation of what is going on. A copy of the Latvian Foreign Ministry note has been circulated to all embassies accredited in Latvia.

Contract 'Must be Honored'

PM2404145192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Video report by N. Kasyanova and A. Zanderson; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] In compliance with UN sanctions, 1,500 military specialists from CIS countries left Libya today.

[Kasyanova over video of a submarine in dock] A submarine for Libya at a naval ship repair yard! This sensational report in the Latvian press today provided the impetus for us to go and find out whether such a thing was possible.

[Captain First Rank O.Ye. Shchelkunov, military plant chief] It must be said that the submarine did not turn up in this dock today—it came to our plant somewhere around 1988 under a contract which was signed between two states—the Soviet Union and the Libyan side.

[Kasyanova] But Russia has backed the UN Security Council resolution against Libya, which incorporates suspension of air traffic and of arms sales. It is known that the sanctions came into force a week ago.

[Shchelkunov] There is a contract between the Ministry of the Armed Forces and our plant, and our contract commitments must be honored. To start with, we have to complete the dock repairs of this vessel. The problem or rather the fate of this submarine as a whole, and of the Libyan crew, can be attended to afterward. But first we must get the submarine out of the dock. [video shows shipyard, submarine, newspaper cutting, and interview]

Protest Note 'Being Prepared'

LD2504094492 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A protest note to Russia is being prepared in connection with the presence of Libyan submarines in Riga. As the Latvian Foreign Ministry unofficially announced, a protest note is being prepared in connection with the fact that at the Bolderaja naval forces base of that state's army, there is a submarine of the former USSR army ready to be sold or that has already been sold to Libya. Experts see this as possibly causing international complications due to the sanctions laid down in accordance with a UN resolution which envisages the discontinuation of trade in weapons with Libya as well.

Moreover, reporters have succeeded in finding out that there is also another Russian submarine at the Bolderaja base ready to be sold to Iran. A group of military people from Libya and Iran and also their family members have already arrived in Latvia to take over both submarines.

Forces Blockade Roads Into Baltic Fleet Port

LD2504165292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Latvian paramilitary forces [sily opolcheniya] this morning blockaded all roads into the port of Lipaja, where the Baltic fleet has one of its bases. A customs zone was set up to inspect all loads.

The Latvians say their actions are justified under republican legislation. The garrison command disputes this. Negotiations are under way and have yet to be completed.

Commander Assures Start of Latvian Pullout

LD2504011592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The commander of the Northwestern Army Group, General Valeriy Mironov, has said in an interview with a Latvian newspaper that although the

schedule of the troop withdrawal hasn't been agreed yet, the pullout has already begun. Several army units have been disbanded. The commander said customs restrictions seriously interfered with planning the troop withdrawal. Gen. Mironov voiced surprise over the Latvian customs department's instructions allowing each officer to take only one wardrobe, while the other one from the same furniture set must be left. The same instruction says that each family can take away only one chair per person.

IMF Expert Assesses Economy, Makes Suggestions

LD2504213392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] The IMF recommends that Latvia continue liberalization of prices and freeing of credit rates, and also accelerating the course of privatization. This is how Ivars Godmanis, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Elmars Silins, the minister of finance, were informed on Tuesday [21 April] about the conclusions of the IMF by the head of a group of specialists of this international organization, Leif Hansen.

The IMF experts handed the government a memorandum in which the current situation in the Latvian economy is assessed and the necessary reforms are described. In the nearest future the memorandum will be discussed at a session of the government and after that its contents will be announced to the inhabitants of Latvia. With the handing over of this memorandum the IMF mission in Latvia has been concluded.

The IMF experts regard as one of the most urgent jobs a normalization of the relations with Russia, including solving of the problems of money policy, mutual settling of accounts, and exchange of goods.

In turn, the head of the government, Ivars Godmanis, in a talk with the leaders of the group of IMF experts assessed the possibilities of progress in the relations with Russia rather skeptically. He acknowledged that the governments' agreement on clearing did not work.

The IMF specialists also gave advice on the reform of the Latvian tax system.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Calls for Immediate Troop Removal

LD2504112192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 25 Apr 92

On 24 April, Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Landsbergis held a telephone conversation with Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, commander of the Russian Northwestern army group, who phoned him. The topic of the conversation was new military groups brought by Russian military planes to Lithuania and the control of the Russian military land transport carried by the Lithuanian Defense Ministry. Vytautas Landsbergis reminded Mironov that the transporation of Russian soldiers by planes to Kazlu-Ruda near Kaunas is a complete disregard of the sovereignty and laws of the Republic of Lithuania and stated that the Republic of Lithuania will not allow the dispersal of these several hundred soldiers on the country's territory. On the contrary, it demands that they immediately are removed the same way and Vilnius is informed about the elimination of the incident.

Environmental Damage Caused by Troops Eyed

LD2604211292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2130 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] After the meeting between the Lithuanian and Russian experts had ended today in Vilnius, Minister Aleksandras Abisala said that there is no further possibility to discuss the particulars of the withdrawal of the Russian troops since Russia is unwilling to specify the date for the final pullout and analyze compensation payments for the damage done to the Lithuanian environment by the Army. Mr. Abisala, who heads the Lithuanian group of experts, thinks that it is now up to the negotiating teams of both sides to solve the most important political questions, but the exact date of their meeting has not yet been set. Some hopes are pinned on the arrival of the Yeltsin special representative to Vilnius on Monday [27 April], who will exchange ratification documents of the Lithuanian-Russian inter-state treaty signed last summer.

Head of the Russian group of experts, Special Ambassador Viktor (?Isayev), told newsmen that he did not want to specify the Army pullout terms and then not to keep to them. Aleksandras Abisala stressed that at the meeting of experts the Russian representatives had raised unexpected and unacceptable questions to the Lithuanian side. The Russian side spoke about its wish to have military bases in Lithuania and that Lithuania should pay for the property that will be left behind by the withdrawing Army. According to Mr. Abisala, Lithuania did not succeed in starting negotiations on compensation for the damage inflicted to Lithuania by the former Soviet Army since 1940. Lithuanian experts have estimated the damage at 230 billion dollars. Mr. Abisala noted that the Russian delegation was very sensitive to the fact that the issue of the Russian Army withdrawal was constantly mentioned at international forums. Lithuania should prepare very seriously for the signing of new documents of the Helsinki process due to take place this summer.

Conflicts in Lithuanian Government Summed Up

PM2704101392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Lithuanian Government Reeling"]

[Text] Vilnius—Three top Lithuanian Government officials—Finance Minister E. Kuneviciene, Vice Premier

V. Pakalniskis, and Cabinet Secretary K. Cilinskas—intend to resign. This was stated in a speech on Lithuanian TV by Prime Minister G. Vagnorius, who assessed the situation in the government as very complex.

As for the motives behind the new government reshuffle, they are directly linked to two major scandalous conflicts recently in the cabinet's relations with parliament and the Lithuanian Bank.

In the first case the government "fell foul" of its own ordinance envisaging a considerable reduction in the managerial apparatus and a sort of purge [chistka] of Lithuanian civil servants. The deputies sharply opposed this decision, accusing G. Vagnorius of being in breach of labor legislation. For his part, at a Government House news conference the premier justified the decision to make 15-20-percent cuts in the administrative apparatus (it was initially planned to dismiss 30-50 percent of officials) by citing the need to restructure organizations and institutions which have become greatly overmanned.

In the second case the conflict arose owing to the Lithuanian Bank's financial strategy. The conflict began around two months ago and has now flared up with particular force. G. Vagnorius has accused the bank of causing material damage to the state, of illegal currency manipulation, of pursuing an incompetent credit policy, and of allowing a cash shortage to come about at the republic's banks. The bank leadership and deputies who support it then went on the offensive. The "financial warfare" has spilled over to the newspapers and television. E. Kuneviciene is the first to crack....

The series of forthcoming resignations may be a tactical ploy by the government in an attempt to emerge from the problems which have been dogging Lithuanian finances over the past few months.

The government situation will be discussed by the republic's Supreme Council 28 April.

Supreme Council Reviews Industry Situation

LD2604092392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpts] A discussion took place on 22 April in the parliament between the deputies, government members, and representatives of industrial enterprises on the situation in industry. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius stated inter alia that at the initial stage of economic reform, for 12 or 18 months, Lithuania needs credit in the sum of 500 million dollars. He confirmed once again that the government was preparing by every means possible to introduce its own currency in the second half of the year.

Landsbergis Meets Mitterand, Dumas

LD2504055792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] An aide of the French president informed yesterday that President Francois Mitterrand would come to Lithuania this May to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries. Yesterday, President Mitterrand and the Lithuanian parliamentary leader, Vytautas Landsbergis, who is on a visit to France at present, had an hour-long talk during which they discussed the upcoming visit of the French president, though the concrete date was not given. Vytautas Landsbergis also had meetings with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, other ministers, and members of parliament. According to a spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry, at the meeting with Minister Roland Dumas, Vytautas Landsbergis expressed Lithuania's concern over the dependence on Russian oil and dissatisfaction over the presence of the Russian Army in Lithuania.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0721 GMT on 24 April adds in a Paris-datelined report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh: "Speaker of the Lithuanian supreme soviet Vytautas Landsbergis and French Budget Minister Michel Charasse signed here on Thursday [23 April] an agreement on assistance and mutual protection of investments. The agreement is to help introduce French industrial enterprises in the Lithuanian economy. According to a communique distributed by the French Ministry of Budget, during a conversation Landsbergis and Charasse dwelt, in particular, on problems of French-Lithuanian cooperation in the sphere of budget, financial and customs policy."]

Investment Guarantee Signed

LD2504033492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Report on Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis's visit to Paris]

[Text] In addition to our 23 April report on the Paris visit, we report that Osvaldas Balakauskas, Lithuania's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in France, and French Budget Minister Michel Cherasse signed an investment guarantee agreement.

Vytautas Landsbergis concluded his visit by meeting administrators of the (Thompson) firm, which intends to provide technical expertise for Lithuania's air and water control as it has done in the CSFR, Finland, and Denmark.